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Kent on Sunday

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From horses to birds, no animal is safe from cruelty and neglect

By Marijke Cox
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HORRIFIC cases of animal cruelty and neglect across the county are pushing animal-welfare groups to crisis point.

Charities are witnessing distressingly high numbers of creatures dumped, injured or neglected, while the poaching of wild birds has even been reported from next to a nature reserve.

One problem highlighted relates to horses abandoned and left to fend for themselves – in many cases, the animals perish.

The issue of fly-grazing, in which horses are left on public or private land, was brought to public attention when walkers came across an upsetting scene at Gravesend, where a mare was found with a dead foal hanging from her body.

Alana Chapman, Kent field officer at World Horse Welfare, said she frequently received calls from the public regarding problems in the Saxon Shore Way area, where some 100 feral horses roam, abandoned by their owners.

She has had to drag horses from marshland and work with vets to put some down due to their suffering.

Referring to the case of the dead foal, she said: "The closer I got, the more strongly I could notice this vile smell, like a rotting stench.

"The poor mare looked as if she had prolapsed, but what had really happened was that she had given birth to a dead foal. The foal and afterbirth were hanging out of her, just left there.

"It was a very hot day and she must have been so incredibly uncomfortable with no one to care for her."

The mare had a broken pelvis and had to be put down.

With the horses not microchipped,

Continued on page 2

ALL THAT GLITTERS: Goldfinches are being trapped through the use of glue on sticks

FORCE

Police predict crime hits

OFFICERS hit the county's streets this week to put their new Predictive Policing strategy into action.

American computer software tells police officers where crime is mostly likely to be committed. A successful pilot test means the scheme is going countywide. **PAGE 4**

SCIENCE

Fruit centre open to public

EAST Malling Research Centre is opening its doors to the public for the first time in 10 years.

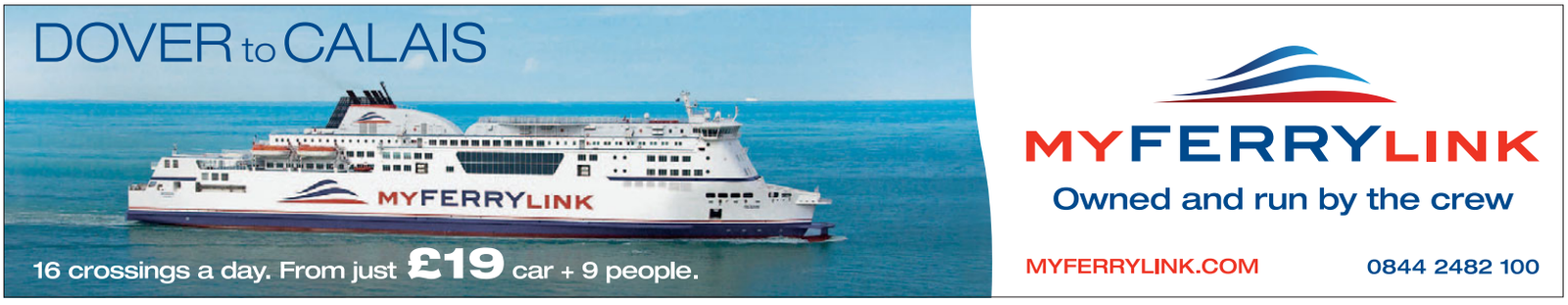
Staff at the science labs, responsible for years of exploration into fruit trees and garden plants, are inviting people to see their work... but for one day only. **PAGE 8**

CRICKET

County star is charged

KENT cricketer Darren Stevens has been charged with failing to report a corrupt approach while playing in the Bangladesh Premier League earlier this year.

The 37-year-old denies the charge but if found guilty could face a ban of up to five years from the sport. **PAGE 55**



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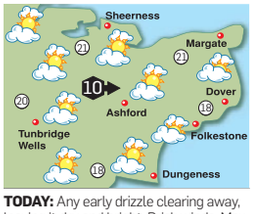

TODAY: Any early drizzle clearing away, leaving it dry and bright. Brisk winds. Max temp 18-21C (64-70F). **TONIGHT:** Dry. Clear spells. Min temp 14-17C (57-63F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.17	6.0	21.47	6.2
Margate	10.03	4.3	22.44	4.5
St Mary's	02.40	4.8	15.14	5.1

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 22C	Min 12C
Tuesday	Max 21C	Min 12C
Wednesday	Max 23C	Min 13C
Thursday	Max 24C	Min 13C
Friday	Max 24C	Min 13C
Saturday	Max 24C	Min 13C

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ANIMAL WELFARE

Poachers even target finches next to trust's nature reserve

Continued from front page

organisations struggle to track down the owners and take action.

"Fly-grazing has massively increased in my area, partly due to the economic crisis but mainly due to the fact that people can get away with doing it," said Ms Chapman.

"The reality is that eventually these horses will die – it is inevitable they will deteriorate without proper care."

Welsh authorities have recently vowed to take legislative action against people who fly-graze.

Charities including World Horse Welfare, the RSPCA and The British Horse Society are pushing for the same commitment from the UK government.

However, it's not just mistreatment of horses that is developing into a serious problem in the county.

Kent Wildlife Trust has been contacted by the public about poaching of wild birds next to one of its nature reserves.

Traps have been set near Ashford Warren to catch goldfinches, which can fetch up to £100 each.

Recently an RSPCA inspector found a caged goldfinch hanging in a hedgerow next to the reserve.

Other goldfinches are attracted by the singing of the trapped bird and land on glue-covered sticks placed in the surrounding bushes.

The poacher then collects the trapped and struggling birds.

Bird-feeders are also used to attract finches to the traps. The birds will often end up with broken legs but can still be sold on.

Ian Rickards, the trust's Ashford area reserve warden, said: "We are asking visitors to the countryside to be aware of this cruel and unsavoury practice and look out for bird-feeders placed in unusual locations – and particularly birds in small cages.

"This must be reported to the RSPCA or the police."

Another species targeted by the cruel in our society – but for different reasons – is the herring gull.

Cases of the birds being shot or kicked are becoming more common and recently some young gulls had to be taken in by the RSPCA after their parents were killed. An RSPCA spokeswoman told us: "July is the time when young herring gulls take off for the first time and they land in people's gardens.

"The older gulls get very protective and they may swoop at people if they go near their babies.

"During the heat-wave in July, roofs were very hot for gulls to land on and so they would go into people's gardens more."

The RSPCA says that people need to be more tolerant of gulls in our towns and cities.

And as if the problems were not bad enough, last week the RSPCA reported how the county was being almost overrun with unwanted cats as more people chose to abandon them due to high veterinary bills.

Kent RSPCA says that it is full to capacity, with more than 350 unwanted felines clogging the system.

Only recently, two boxes of kittens were ditched separately at the Ashford cattery door.

At Woodchurch, a car slowed as it passed the cattery and three animals were thrown out.

An RSPCA spokesman said Kent's branches were running out of space.

Staff say that they cannot remember a worse crisis in the cat population.

RSPCA branch support specialist Becky Blackmore said: "Broadly, the problem is that irresponsible and accidental breeding of cats is leading to our rehoming centres being full of kittens, growing into young cats, without sufficient homes being available."

Figures for the Leybourne RSPCA centre showed it was looking after 44 cats, 55 dogs, seven captive birds, 56 guinea pigs, 23 pet mammals such as ferrets and gerbils, 33 rabbits, three farm animals and one wild bird.

LIVE EXPORTS

Anti-live-export campaigners are continuing to pressurise the Government into putting a stop to livestock exports through the Port of Dover.

A petition has been launched calling for Dover Harbour Board to allow the RSPCA to inspect the animals being shipped across the English Channel.

Currently, the welfare charity is not allowed access to the animals.

To sign the petition, you can visit http://bit.ly/14GajMD

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

Motability
September 8
Find out just what great deals can be had as we take a special look at the offers on Motability motors.

Business Quarter
September 15
All the latest business news and the movers and shakers shaping the county's economy

Education
September 22
Ensure your child gets the best possible start in life by keeping up to date with their learning.

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PROPERTY

Buy your own beach hut... for the cost of a one-bedroom flat

By Marijke Cox
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IT'S only a fraction bigger than your average garden shed and lacks a bathroom and bedrooms, while it is perhaps not the most homely place to lay your head at night.

But this quirky beach hut at Seasalter boasting views of the north Kent coast and not so very far from trendy Whitstable will set you back a cool £59,995 – the same price as an average one-bedroom flat in Kent.

First put on the market for £80,000 in 2011, it appears that there was little interest, with the price dropping over the past two years only to be pushed back up again in May this year, no doubt in preparation for the summer.

Estate agents Ward and Partners told us that the owner was reluctant to speak about the property, on Graveney beach.

The firm admitted, however, there had been little recent interest from potential purchasers.

During these tough economic times, perhaps it's optimistic to think that someone could dig deep enough in their pocket to find £60,000 to buy what is effectively a hut on a beach, particularly when you can hire one for £100 per week in Whitstable or buy one for the cheaper, albeit still expensive, cost of between £10,000 and £20,000.

The owner may be hoping to attract people living in London with that bit of extra cash and the desire to escape to the seaside.

Seasalter is, after all, close to the glorious North Kent Marshes and the hut itself is on a shingle beach next to the South Swale nature reserve.

Describing the property on Zoopla.co.uk, the owner says: "We have many brilliant memories of days at our beach hut.

"It has been used for family/friends gatherings, art projects and finding peace in a very busy world.

"It is time for us to move on and let someone else take it over. Although compact, it has everything you need for a day's stay at the beach or a base for going out from there either walking the marshes, mud flats or exploring by boat."

The hut has a chemical Portaloo, kitchen cupboards, a stainless-steel sink and a Calor Gas-operated two-ring hob and grill.

Shutters are on the windows and there is parking with access to the plot. It is also near the Michelin-starred gastro-pub The Sportsman.

However, despite the many charms, the price, you might have thought, was likely to be the one big drawback to a sale.

Or perhaps not.

In June last year, an 18ft x 10ft beach hut in Mudeford Spit, Dorset, sold for a staggering £170,000 just two days after going on the market, making it the most expensive beach hut in the UK.

Five months later, a single-storey wooden building measuring 23ft x 6ft in Sheldon, Devon, was put on the market for £245,000.

■ **See http://bit.ly/ItuBf3 to find out more about the beach hut at Seasalter.**

SWALE VIEWS: The beach hut on the coast at Seasalter is now on sale for just shy of £60,000

CRIME

Teens target woman

A WOMAN from Tunbridge Wells has had her bag snatched by two teenage boys as she walked into town.

The 57-year-old victim was walking to the shops at 12.30pm on Tuesday, August 13, via Eastlands Road, where she was approached from behind by two teenage boys.

The thieves, who were reported to be wearing baseball caps, snatched the woman's bag containing her purse and about £70 cash.

The victim was shocked but unharmed.

POLICE

Pervert with bad teeth

TWO young women were approached at a bus stop by a man who indecently exposed himself.

The man offered the women money to take a photo of him naked at East View, Hersden, on Monday, August 5.

They refused and as they walked away he indecently exposed himself. He is a white man of small build, 5ft 7in tall and with bad teeth.

COURT

War medals charge

BRENDAN Cameron, 29, of Jenkins Dale, Chatham, has been charged with the theft of two war medals from an empty home.

Police were called when several items of jewellery, including a First World War naval medal, were reported missing from a property in Jenkins Dale. The property was owned by an elderly woman who died recently.

TELEVISION

Tunnels set the scene for TV drama

DOVER Castle's secret wartime tunnels and Walmer Castle and Gardens are to form the setting for a new ITV drama documentary about the Second World War.

Filming will take place next week, although the exact details of the show are being kept under wraps by ITV and the lead actors are also yet to be announced.

Director Marion Milne, who won an Emmy Award for the production Ten Days To D-Day, said: "The tunnels beneath Dover Castle are an absolute gem. Authentic, atmospheric and

steeped in World War Two history. The Operation Dynamo area, where Admiral Ramsay, naval commander for D-Day had his base, is a revelation to me and the underground hospital complex next to Operation Dynamo is fascinating.

"It's ideal for a film-maker, with its long, dark corridors and World War Two operating theatre, dormitories, mess room and hospital wards. A ready-made set!

"Walmer Castle is also ideal. It has beautiful gardens for exterior filming and the perfect drawing room for re-creating a grand Whitehall office where some of the key action of our film takes place. The staff at both the castles have been open to all our requests and very supportive of the shoot."

Both of the heritage sites will be open as usual during the filming. The programme is due to air in 2014.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Future of policing is changing as county's force turns to groundbreaking technology that predicts

Kent Police make calculated bid to stop crime before it happens

ZONAL MARKING: Officers visit one of the areas earmarked by PredPol for checks

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT'S been dubbed Minority Report policing – groundbreaking technology that can predict exactly where a crime will take place in the next 24 hours.

Futuristic it may sound. Implausible, perhaps... hence the reference to the Tom Cruise film. But predictive policing, or PredPol as it is known, is set to change the way Kent Police go about their duties – getting to the criminals first or, more importantly, preventing crime from taking place.

The innovative computer software, originating in the United States, uses a mathematical calculation to work out the most likely areas that offenders will strike, based on crime data provided by the county force.

This allows officers to step up a presence in those areas rather than carry out random patrols.

Already Kent Police, the first force in the UK to use the new technology, have been approached by forces in Europe and even as far away as Australia wanting to find out more.

A successful pilot was carried out in north Kent, which led to a 6 per cent reduction in violent crime. It is now been rolled out countywide.

This week, Kent Police hit the streets with maps and target zones to put their new predictive policing strategy into action.

PredPol creates 20 zones in the morning and 20 zones in the evening across the 13 Kent districts, and officers make it their duty to visit these areas throughout the course of the day.

The zones are 150ft x 150ft in size and officers are encouraged to "police what they see" and act as a deterrent when they arrive in the area.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth believes the system could revolutionise policing methods on a national scale.

"On a normal policing day we will respond to the calls that come in," he said.

"If I'm out on patrol and get a call, I will go and deal with that job. But when I'm not being dispatched to deal with anything, instead of randomly patrolling, we will now go into one of the boxes [zones] and police what we see.

"The key is, if nothing happens in that box, we have still been successful because we've prevented crimes with the added bonus of our visibility.

"If there is nothing happening, it is an ideal opportunity for us to engage with the public, speak to local residents or shopkeepers to see what their issues are.

"We can get information from them and reassure them with our presence, and if something happens then we will deal with it."

The zones are determined by mathematical calculations called algorithms. The process is constantly updated, with police officers feeding in all recorded crime information on a daily basis.

CC Learmonth said: "We are the trailblazers in the UK, but it came from America – we have been working very closely with colleagues from Santa Cruz and Los Angeles over there.

"In the pilot results we saw a greater reduction in crime in the pilot area than in the rest of the county. We saw a significant reduction in violence.

"The Americans had significant successes in bringing crime down by 19 per cent. I don't think we will get near that because we are starting from different places.

"We are already a safe county and this will just enhance the way we are able to do our work."

The software, which costs £100,000 per year to run, will now be involved with day-to-day policing and supported by the occasional "all out" days of action when officers blitz the zones.

But has this technology been brought in solely to make it easier to run Kent Police with fewer officers?

The force has been hit hard by cuts since the recession, leading to the loss of 500 officer posts and 1,000 civilian staff.

"It's not designed to be able to do things with less staff, but the fact we do have less staff because of budget cuts, we have to make best use of the resources we have got and this allows us to do that," said CC Learmonth.

"Let's not do a random patrol, let's do it in an area were we get the best return."

Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes allocated the money needed to test out the PredPol software a year ago while she was still chair of the Kent Police Authority.

She told us she was delighted by the pilot and the continuing roll-out.

"I did release funds for it and we ran out this pilot in north Kent, which brought down street crime by 6 per cent," she said.

"Those are the actual figures, but you don't know how much crime wasn't committed because the police were visible there.

"To me, it is just ordinary policing. Our officers are on the streets doing what they are best at – interacting with the people.

"This is visible community policing using 21st-century technology. It's very clever.

"I like that officers will be in these areas stopping crime from happening rather than mopping up afterwards. It is absolutely proactive."

The police have already seen examples of where their presence in a highlighted zone has brought them arrests.

Two men were arrested on the day of action this week for possession of cocaine and cannabis.

CC Learmonth said another example was when officers attending a zone predicted to receive a burglary arrested thieves fleeing a house just a short distance away.

This new preventative software can also be configured to focus on a particular crime at a particular time of day, something that Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, is keen to see. He said: "We are in-

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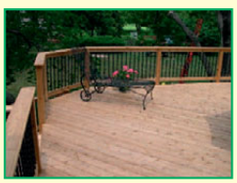

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where criminal activity may be about to take place

FORCE FIELD: Chief Constable Ian Learmonth and PCC Ann Barnes, left, are excited by the benefits PredPol can bring to Kent Police; it is a system putting the force at the forefront of crime prevention

WHAT IS PREDPOL AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

PREDPOL is a piece of computer software that originated in the US and predicts where crime will take place in the following 24 hours.

Kent Police have entered more than five years of crime data into the system and will continue to do so on a daily basis.

The PredPol then uses a mathematical calculation known as an algorithm to work out the most likely areas that crime could strike.

Each day 20 small zones are created across each of Kent's 13 districts. One set of zones is worked out for day patrols and another set of 20 zones for night-time patrols.

It is believed this will eliminate random patrols from officers' shifts and instead focus their resources.

Mark Johnson, head of analysis at Kent Police, said: "We've never had anything that predicts crime in this way.

"There is some sophisticated maths behind it, but it offers a simple format. The zones are different to the usual 'hot-spots', which can be very large and can change their heat, if you like.

"This is taking that concept and moving it on into really small areas, showing where crimes are more likely to happen.

"It targets the high-risk areas where there is a higher probability of crime that day. We are asking officers to go to these areas and police what they see to prevent crime."

stinctively supportive of the idea of putting police officers in the right place at the right time. That makes sense.

"And I have certainly heard from colleagues in America about the success they have had over there. They have focused on two types of crime – theft of motor vehicles and burglary – but we've taken a scattergun approach covering all crime and antisocial behaviour. I wonder in the future if we will see this more focused effort on specific crime types.

"I'm always sceptical of pilots because in 29 years of policing I have never known a pilot to fail.

"I think what we need to do now is that if we are going to get results from predictive policing, that they are actually true results and we see how it performs in every-day policing once the novelty of the pilot has worn off."

CRIME

Grandfather tied up and threatened with knife in front of family

POLICE are hunting robbers who tied up a grandfather and threatened him with a knife in front of his family before making off with jewellery.

Computer-generated images have been released of the suspects, who entered the back of the victim's property in Southfleet Road in Bean on Tuesday, July 16, at about 1pm.

A man who was at home with his wife and three grandchildren had his hands tied behind his back.

The family, who were unharmed, were threatened with what is believed to have been a knife found at the address.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Kieron Watts said: "This robbery was carried out in the middle of the day and with three children at the address at the time of the offence.

"Seeing their grandfather with his hands tied must have been a frightening experience for them and I urge anyone who recognises either or both of the two people in the e-fit to call Kent Police.

"If you have any information, no matter how big or small, it may help."

One of the offenders is described as a white man, aged between 20 and 26 and wearing a white checked shirt and blue jeans.

The second offender has also been described as a white man, aged between 20 and 26 and wearing blue jeans and a blue shirt.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to phone 01474 366089.

E-FITS: Do you know them?

POLICE

Murder probe after stabbing

A MURDER investigation has been launched after the death of a 21-year-old woman.

Metropolitan Police officers were called to a property in Eastdown Park, Lewisham, on Wednesday. A 22-year-old man was arrested in Folkestone on Thursday.

The woman was discovered with "suspected stab wounds" and pronounced dead at the scene.

DEATH

Appeal after car hits tree

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a fatal car-crash in Faversham on Wednesday night in which a 52-year-old Ashford man died.

A silver Vauxhall Meriva was travelling along Ashford Road, in the direction of Ashford, when the car came off the road and crashed into a tree. No other vehicles were involved.

Anyone with information can phone 01622 798538.

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INTERVIEW

New turn of events for Apprentice winner Stella, who's not sour after her Alan Sugar court battle

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

SHE is arguably the most well-known Apprentice winner, having dragged Lord Alan Sugar through the courts after claiming her £100,000 prize job was a sham.

Describing herself as no more than an "overpaid lackey", Stella English filed for constructive dismissal, taking on the business mogul in an employment tribunal.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, she lost, and in the process saw herself branded a "money-grabber" by the victor.

But the mother-of-two from Whitstable is putting the boardroom – and the very public court case – behind her and firing up her business skills once more.

In a shift from the corporate world she is used to, Stella is turning her attention to a new events-organising venture, which will launch later this month with a black-tie summer ball at Whitstable Castle.

"As you know, I had a recent tribunal with our good friend," she said.

"He's suing me for his costs now, so I'm going back to court with him at some point.

"He's definitely off the Christmas-card list.

"All that has really made it quite difficult to continue in the type of work I was doing. He said quite a lot of very negative things about me.

"But it made me think I can just use my skills and do things on my own.

"My skills are in organisation. I've been managing events as part of my job for nearly 20 years. When I worked in the financial sector I arranged events all over the world."

Stella, who won BBC's The Apprentice in 2010, moved to Whitstable almost two years ago.

It was a visit to the town's castle that inspired her to start her own firm, called English Events Company.

The first event, on Friday, August 30, will include performances from classical singer Natalie Coyle (see *Weekend* section) and soul star Dionne Bromfield.

To stage it in the seaside town is a dream come true, she says.

"I have lived in Whitstable for a couple of years and am a big fan of the area. There are lots of lovely venues here relatively under-utilised.

"The castle is a stunning building. I know it had a record-breaking 6,000 visitors in May, which is great.

"My husband is from south London, but his parents had moved here, to Seasalter, so we've always escaped to Whitstable. I was fostered by my great-auntie Stella and when I lost her about 18 months ago it just made me think about what I wanted out of life.

"It was one of those things – we used to drive here every week and on the way home we'd say 'Oh, lets move there', and by the time we got back to Blackheath it was forgotten.

"But then, when you're faced with death, you start thinking about things and what you want, and the truth was I really wanted to come here."

Stella chose the venue because of its charitable background and the fact it gives back to the community.

She said: "I like the strong sense of community here. It's a beautiful place – you have the sea, the countryside. I love the culture and the people. Whitstable is trendy, but it's not snobby or pretentious.

"Without wanting to sound arrogant, when you get recognised it can be quite uncomfortable sometimes and there can be an expectation from people. I found that a lot living in London.

"Most people here don't say anything – we are allowed to be just the regular family that we are. It's the happiest I have ever been."

BACK IN BUSINESS: Stella has turned to events management

Stella's well-documented legal battle with Lord Sugar has not deterred her keenness for the business world and she even admits watching the latest series of The Apprentice.

"The programme with Lord Sugar was very different to the job I took on – they are distinctly different in my mind.

"I found it hard to watch when I was the reigning winner and in the months after, but I think the tribunal was quite cathartic and I really let the whole thing go.

"I still watch it [the show] and there are parts I find very funny. Lord Sugar is funny on occasion, which is quite annoying because I'm laughing then slapping myself round the face.

"But I'm not bitter. What's happened is very much between him and me and nothing to do with anyone else. The programme is fantastic."

Neither does she harbour any regrets about going on the show in the first place.

"I don't ever regret anything. I went on there with the sole purpose to win – and I did. It was a great feeling.

"It doesn't matter what has happened after, really, because as far as that show is concerned, for someone like me – who was poorly educated, left school at 15 and had a difficult time – I can always say 'I won The Apprentice'."

SCIENCE

Century of discovery... all in a day

Joe Bill reports on East Malling Research, which is offering a rare behind-the-scenes opportunity to see the pioneering work that has revolutionised our fruit-growing and horticultural industry

A LABORATORY deep in the heart of Kent is opening its doors to the public for the first time in 10 years – but for one day only.

East Malling Research (EMR) has been at the forefront of fruit-farming studies for 100 years and next month is inviting families and science fans to the site to celebrate its centenary.

Visitors will have the chance to step inside the facility's root laboratory to see its pioneering work in developing new fruit forms and ornamental garden plants.

Professor Peter Gregory, from the centre, said: "We have contributed to revolutionising the fruit industry. Just 100 years ago, you would have only been able to get apples a few months before Christmas or strawberries in June, but now the consumer has got a much wider choice of fruit available for much longer in the year."

The site has worked on increasing the length of the growing season for strawberries and created fruits that are pest- and disease-resistant.

"Another solution that came from here was the problem of storing fruit," said Prof Gregory, who has worked at EMR for two years.

"Many fruits are picked in the autumn, but you can now still eat them in the springtime. We looked at taking them from the orchard into storage at a lower temperature where the atmosphere is controlled. We removed CO_2 and a gas called ethylene so you can eat them later in the year."

BEFORE AND AFTER: Visitors to the EMR open day can see the centre's labs, which have changed markedly since 1913

The centre, which employs 50 scientists and 50 support staff, has been working on techniques for years to improve efficiency of farming fruits such as apples, pears and cherries to make growing and gathering easier.

Prof Gregory said: "One of the first things we did was to develop our root stocks. Roots control the growth and size of the tree. One hundred years ago, if you went into an orchard you would see trees of all different shapes and sizes. Now we can make them a standard size, which makes growing and picking much easier."

Several things have changed since the lab opened in 1913, including EMR's company status, with the lab moving from a public organisation to a private charity that can create its own funding through research.

It can also sell its findings.

"Years ago we would have got on with the research we wanted and then told the farmers about it, but things are more sophisticated now," said Prof Gregory.

"Often the research we do is informed by or paid for by the industry. We have a much better and more immediate route to market."

The Malling Centenary Strawberry, which the centre created to celebrate its anniversary, has been the subject of a TV show in recent months and the scientists have decided it's time to open their doors once more.

Prof Gregory said: "It's time the public came back in. We have been through a fairly tricky period from transferring from being a public organisation to a private one and now people will be able to see some of the work that goes on."

■ **The open day, A Century of Plant Science, is on Saturday, September 14, from 10am-4pm. Admission (cash only): adults £3, under-16s £1, concessions £2.50, family ticket £8. Visit www.emr.ac.uk for information.**

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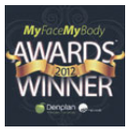

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DUMPING GROUND: A common sight for visitors to Folkestone Warren is piles of rubbish discarded by filthy campers

ENVIRONMENT

Vandals, flytippers, slovenly campers... a site under siege

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOUL-MOUTHED, dirty campers are slowly destroying some of Kent's most attractive coastal landscapes.

Although some sites have designated protection, those looking after them say this does little to dissuade the slovenly trouble-makers.

The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, set up in 1989 to help conserve the environment while at the same time making it accessible to visitors, said Folkestone Warren was the worst-affected site but others were also badly hit.

Some trippers are ignoring the two official camping sites bordering the Warren, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England.

It is a criminal offence to damage an SSSI. Accordingly, camping on such a site, along with the setting of fires, is breaking the law.

The partnership has seen flytipping and other incidents of dumping, including a safe smashed open and a lorry packed with cannabis.

In July alone, staff at the 500-acre Warren logged 43 incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour. They stress, however, that these are only the incidents seen by the WCCP, with many more probably taking place.

Partnership manager Kirk Alexander said: "You are not allowed to camp – and certainly not light fires.

"Sometimes people stay for weeks and leave litter strewn everywhere.

"One couple have been camping for years. I am not sure who they are, but we don't approach them any more as they are generally very confrontational, especially the woman.

"We tell them they can't camp there and they often swear at us. Some of these campers are in large numbers and hold parties.

"All we can do is log the incidents, but there is little we can do otherwise. You very quickly get an earful."

Mr Alexander said that more than 100,000 people visited the Warren every year and the majority were very friendly. Sadly, though, many were put off by the antisocial activity.

Even the warning and information signs have been stolen.

Mr Alexander warned that the condition of the Warren was "declining because of a lack of grazing but also because of damage caused by people".

"The WCCP is reintroducing grazing and other management to maintain and enhance wildlife, but this is threatened by the behaviour of a small minority," he said.

"The fencing for the grazing scheme is being installed at the moment and has been vandalised. There is a specific criminal offence of damaging a Site of Special Scientific Interest under the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000."

He said that crime and antisocial behaviour not only spoilt the experience for visitors but much of it also damaged the wildlife value of the site.

The partnership is calling on the public to report illegal behaviour and for those committing crimes to change their ways.

Mr Alexander said problems were also happening at other WCCP sites "but not to the same extent".

"We do have camping on part of the Folkestone Downs and it's the same at the Western Heights at Dover.

"There is a history of people doing what they like, but they need to recognise this is a nationally-protected site – their behaviour and attitude is not acceptable."

■ **For more information, visit www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk.**

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LITERATURE

British soldier who kept promise to Kaiser and returned to PoW camp

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

WHEN Captain Robert Campbell wrote to the Kaiser asking for special dispensation to leave the prisoner-of-war camp in which he was incarcerated to visit his dying mother in Kent, he knew the likely answer.

But in what turned out to be one of the most extraordinary yet unsung tales of the First World War, the British soldier was granted leave by the German emperor to travel to Gravesend in December 1916 to be by his mother's bedside – on the understanding he would return.

And despite being back on British soil with every chance to escape, Capt Campbell was true to his word and returned to the camp in Magdeburg, Germany.

Perhaps the most extraordinary part, with the exception of the Kaiser's act of kindness, was that the British Army allowed its soldier to return to his captors rather than send him back to the Western Front.

The tale has been told for the first time by Richard Van Emden in his book Meeting The Enemy: The Human Face Of The Great War.

"Many of the stories came from Foreign Office records – it's remarkable," said Mr Van Emden. "He was in a PoW camp and he spoke to a commandant there about how his mother was dying and it was the commandant who suggested writing to the Kaiser asking if he could have special leave.

"It never happened again. He was the only one given permission based on an honour's promise.

"It's interesting that not only was he allowed to leave but he was allowed by the British Army to go back."

LEAVE: Capt Robert Campbell

In his new book, Mr Van Emden looks at a different side to war.

"There are a lot of books on battles, but I look more into the human condition of war, how people coped," he said.

"I'm trying to fuse together the Western Front and the Home Front. Britain had an amazing relationship with Germany before World War One. Queen Victoria had married her German cousin, we did good business with Germany – there were incredible links.

"I wanted to look at what happens when two good friends meet in a war. Meeting The Enemy looks at that.

"I learned of amazing stories, such as German and British men trading newspapers across No Man's Land.

"It's looking at war from a different angle."

The book took seven years to put together, with many hours spent poring over documents unearthed in the Foreign Office records department.

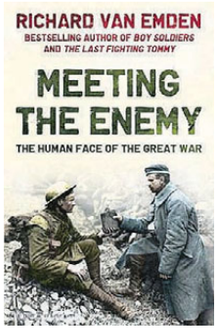
"This kind of thing takes an inordinate amount of work, but I love it," said Mr Van Emden.

"The Foreign Office records are massively underutilised – many of the stories in the book which have never been heard before came from there."

Other stories in Meeting The Enemy include a British soldier walking over to the German front line to deliver newspapers and British women married to Germans becoming enemies in their own country.

The book also includes the story of a high-ranking British PoW discussing his own troops' heroism with the Kaiser.

■ **To buy a copy of Meeting The Enemy, visit http://bit.ly/14ceuwj**



CRIME

Teenagers robbed at knifepoint in park by two 'intoxicated' men

YOUNGSTERS skateboarding in Gravesend have been robbed at knifepoint by two men.

The six teenagers were skateboarding and listening to music in a park off Ordnance Road at midnight on Wednesday, July 31, when they were approached by two men who appeared intoxicated.

They forced the teenagers to sit on the ledge of the ramp and demanded their phones and wallets, threatening them with a knife. One victim was punched and another slapped. Another suffered a cut to his arm.

Call police on 01474 336423.

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TRANSPORT

Commuters face up to 9.1% rise in fares as MPs turn on rail companies

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT MPs are demanding an end to widespread inefficiencies in the county's rail service as long-suffering commuters find themselves faced with yet another hike in fares.

Figures this week revealed July's inflation rate as 3.1 per cent and, with train firms allowed to increase prices by an average of inflation plus 1 per cent, it means Southeastern commuters face an average 4.1 per cent rise next January.

Of more concern is that Southeastern can hike fares by as much as a further 5 per cent on some routes, as long as the average across the county stays at RPI [Retail Price Index] plus 1 per cent.

It could mean passengers on some lines faced with a massive 9.1 per cent increase.

Last year, Sir Roy McNulty exposed British railways in a report as among the most expensive in Europe, with inefficiencies costing some £3.5 billion each year.

Kent MPs have lobbied transport minister Stephen Hammond to try to find a solution to the problem. Among them was Canterbury MP Julian Brazier.

"Putting railway finances on a sustainable footing is essential if we are to be fair to taxpayers and passengers and deliver the improvements necessary for the rail network," he said.

"Ministers have announced reforms to tackle the high underlying costs of our railways and use the savings to help fare-payers and taxpayers."

Some trade unions held protests at 50 UK stations this week to speak out against the year-on-year price hikes.

Since 2008, fares have risen almost three times faster than the average income.

Sir Roger Gale, Thanet North MP, said: "Train fares have risen at above-average rates on the Kent coastline for far too long while the service has not improved.

"I note the Association of Train Operating Companies [ATOC] says the rises are to pay for 'improved services, better trains, less crowding and faster journey times'. Would that it were so."

Sir John Stanley, member for Tonbridge and Malling, said the rise was "unacceptable".

"Both the Government and the train companies are exploiting rail commuters as a captive market," he said.

He added that the rises were not justified on the grounds of service improvements as "the rail services have been deteriorating rather than improving".

The MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, Gordon Henderson, was just as dismayed.

"The problem with the north Kent line is commuters paid inflation plus 3 per cent for five years when the rest of the country was paying inflation plus 1 per cent," he said.

"We were told that difference was because of the need to pay for the 'improved' service on the line, including HS1.

"We are now being expected to pay the same increases as the rest of the country to fund further rail improvements. That is unfair."

Sevenoaks member Michael Fallon wrote to Southeastern chief executive Charles Horton this week urging him to "exercise restraint".

The Government says the taxpayer should not have to pay for the transport system, with commuters instead shouldering the cost.

Speaking for Southeastern, Michael Roberts, chief executive of ATOC, said: "Government determines how the average season-ticket price-rise is set each year.

"Since 2004, it has been Government policy to allow regulated fares to rise above inflation in order to support investment in more trains, better stations and faster services. This is helping to drive passenger satisfaction to near-record levels while seeking to reduce taxpayers' contribution towards the cost of running the railways."

David Sidebottom is passenger director at watchdog Passenger Focus.

"The way that train companies are allowed so much flexibility to set fares on individual routes is unfair," he said.

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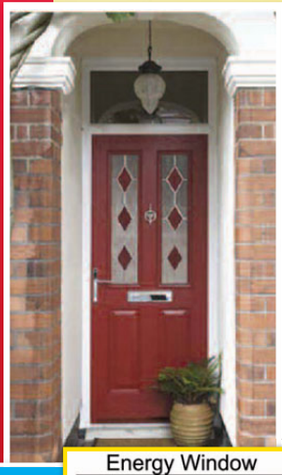

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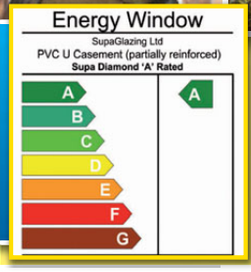

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EDUCATION

Hard work rewarded as students celebrate a massive improvement in A-level results

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A MIXTURE of tears and joy was seen across the county on Thursday as thousands of students collected their A-level results.

And, unlike the national trend, Kent was boasting improvements on last year, with the percentage of pupils achieving two or more A*-E grades rising considerably from 54.8 per cent last year to 72 per cent.

The county also saw a rise in the number of A*, A and B grades from 5 per cent last year to 14.8 per cent.

Margaret Crabtree, deputy cabinet member for education at Kent County Council, visited pupils at Bennett Memorial school in Tunbridge Wells on Thursday.

"It has been a privilege to meet some of the young people collecting their results," she said. "This is a time to celebrate their hard work and successes.

"I wish all students the best for their future, whatever they decide to do.

"Through their determination, and the support of teachers, the county's results have improved year on year for the past 13 years.

"I am very encouraged by the results we have had in so far. To have such significant rises in both the number of pupils gaining two or more A-levels and also the number achieving higher grades is fantastic.

"Life is competitive, and by achieving such great results the students in Kent are well equipped to fulfil their potential."

Figures will be confirmed by the Department for Education, at which point a comparison can be made with the national average.

Delighted students and staff have been celebrating across the county.

In Medway, the lead portfolio holder for children's services, Mike O'Brien, said it had been an anxious but exciting day for pupils and their families.

"I know students work incredibly hard to achieve A-levels and I am sure their dedication will have paid off," he said.

"I would like to congratulate all of our students, their families and staff for all their achievements and hard work this year.

"Over the coming weeks and months, all those who have received their results will be moving on to the next stage in their careers and I'd like to wish each and every one every success in whichever path they choose."

Head-teachers praised students and paid tribute to the hard-working teachers and staff at schools across Kent.

Anyone unsure of the route they want to take can visit Kentchoices4u.com to find out more about their options.

HAPPY: Pupils from Bennet Memorial school in Tunbridge Wells (left and bottom) and St John Fisher School, Medway, are thrilled with their results

DIDN'T GET THE GRADES YOU WANTED? WHAT TO DO NEXT?

The exams are done and the A-level results are in.

For students who have achieved their desired grades, there is jubilation, while for those who didn't get what they were aiming for it is now time to re-evaluate your next steps.

There are many options available to both students and teenagers looking to kick-start their careers. Leaving school presents youngsters with a host of options, including:

- **University** If you want to go to university and have narrowly missed the conditions of your offer, phone the institution in question and ask if they will still consider you.

Alternatively, course vacancies are advertised on the UCAS website. If you see a vacancy in which you're interested, talk to the admissions staff at the universities and colleges with places available.

Staff will be able to tell you whether they are prepared to offer you a place.

- **Gap Year** You may wish to consider withdrawing your application for university and reapplying next year.

In the meantime, why not undertake a gap programme, such as Kent County Council's?

Gap programmes can be a good way to gain confidence, new skills, experience, maturity and direction. Working abroad is always a good way to see the world and have new experiences.

- **Work** Maybe it is time to join the world of work, get on the career path and start earning a salary. There are great opportunities out there! If you're not sure which industry you would like to join, perhaps some work experience would help.
- **Apprenticeship** If you have a vocation in mind, why not start an apprenticeship? Phone KCC's contact centre on 08458 247 247 to learn more about all Kent-based apprenticeships, both public and private.
- **Re-sit your exams** If there were circumstances on the day of the exam that you believe had a negative impact on your performance, you may wish to consider re-sitting the exam. Talk to your teachers about why you didn't do so well in your exams and whether it's worth another try.

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HEALTH CARE

Discovery of wartime bunker could delay construction of new hospital

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A HUGE Second World War bunker has been unearthed by contractors working on the long-awaited new Dover hospital.

The discovery, unsurprising given the town's history at the heart of Hellfire Corner during the war, has led to a two-month delay in the completion of the project.

Campaigners have been fighting for years for a hospital, claiming the town's health services have been "decimated".

In June, plans for the facility to replace the existing Buckland Hospital were given the go-ahead by Dover District Council's planning committee.

The new hospital in Coombe Valley Road, which will include clinical and outpatient services, was expected to be ready by December 2014, but with this latest setback it is more likely to be February 2015.

Removal of the bunker required a massive excavation, 50m x 24m and to a depth of four metres, giving archaeologists the opportunity to examine the site. A small number of prehistoric struck flints was found.

While the site was being cleared, contractors also found "deeply-buried" asbestos under the concrete foundations of the old mortuary and pathology buildings.

The material has been removed from the site.

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust's deputy director of estates and facilities, Finbarr Murray, said: "We knew a bunker existed, but the sheer size of it was a surprise.

"It was important we followed right procedures and dealing with both issues correctly has meant a delay to our preliminary work.

"I should also stress there is no risk to staff, patients or visitors arising from either issue.

"The project team is now working to identify any opportunities to return the build to its original completion date of December 2014, but at present the completion date has been adjusted to the end of February 2015."

The hospitals trust has agreed funding of £21 million for the new hospital. Health chiefs say it will accommodate 21st-century facilities offering patients a 'one-stop-shop' approach.

Liz Shutler, director of strategic development and capital planning for the trust, said: "This facility will provide patients with modern care, delivered in a purpose-built environment."

SURPRISE FIND: Contractors were shocked to discover the bunker beneath the hospital site in Dover

ACCIDENT: 44-year-old was trapped inside car

FIRE SERVICE

Driver in 14-hour car-crash ordeal

A MOTORIST survived being trapped in his car, upside down in a water-filled ditch, for 14 hours.

It is believed the 44-year-old was returning from work in Ashford to Romney Marsh at about 2am on Tuesday when the crash on the A2070 happened. His was not discovered until about 4pm that same day, when a lorry-driver spotted the back wheels of the upside-down vehicle.

Fire-fighters found the trapped man in an air pocket towards the back of the car. He was treated at the scene before being taken to hospital.

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SAFETY

'No shortage of on-call fire-fighters'

County chiefs deny union claim that recruitment push is to plug gap

FIRE chiefs at the county brigade have denied that a big recruitment drive for on-call fire-fighters is in response to a shortage.

It follows claims by the Fire Brigades Union that the county is short of cover just as Kent Fire and Rescue Service launches its largest-ever hunt for staff with the aim of increasing its on-call provision at 26 stations.

Steve Griffiths, director of service delivery, stressed there was no shortage and the move was to ensure there are more locally-based staff.

"We have whole-time fire-fighters who can move around the county as needed, so there is not a problem with fire cover," he said.

"However, we want locally-based on-call staff working part-time out of their village stations at hours when we know their area needs them.

"We have recruited 78 on-call fire-fighters across the county in the past year, but we now want to increase the numbers at 26 stations."

However, James Parrott, the Fire Brigades Union's executive council member for the South East, said there were issues with on-call cover.

On-call – or retained– fire-fighters are paid to be available for an agreed number of hours and during that time they can go about their normal life at home. If they are called on, however, they must drop everything and get to a station.

"Each station will have 12 or 18 on-call fire-fighters they can call on – the problem is getting people to do certain hours of the day, such as working hours," said Mr Parrott.

"Kent seems to have a problem filling Saturdays and probably working hours, too. This is the issue. In Kent, one in five appliances [staffed by on-call staff] is regularly unavailable.

"KFRS is saying otherwise, but reps from the area have told me that."

Mr Parrott said it became expensive filling these gaps with full-time fire-fighters, who would then be paid overtime.

He said: "We support any recruitment drive – we just think KFRS should be more open and make people aware of any problems."

KFRS insists this drive is to run the smaller stations by using on-call staff in those areas.

Its campaign aims to attract people from all backgrounds to "challenge the stereotype" that only a certain type of person can be a firefighter.

Sean Bone-Knell, assistant director at KFRS, said: "We are now able to recruit on-call fire-fighters to work exactly when and where we need them, based on local risk in individual areas. This not only applies to time of day but also the time of year, for example busy periods such as a dry summer when there are traditionally more fires."

■ **See www.kentfirejobs.info/ for details.**

CUTS AND SAVINGS

KFRS has faced tough times, with £12m of savings needed to be made up to 2013/14.

And there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel, with Chancellor George Osborne having announced likely further cuts to the public sector up to 2016/17.

Plans to close eight stations in Kent staffed by part-time crews were approved earlier this year, with two new stations planned in New Ash Green and Herne Bay, as well as three already under way for Ramsgate and Medway.

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COMPETITION

WIN! a family ticket to model show with some special treats thrown in

DALEKS, steam trains, aircraft and iconic cars will be the stars of this year's Southern Model Show, which is coming to Kent for the first time.

The event, to be held over the weekend of September 14-15, has a new location this year – Headcorn aerodrome, near Maidstone – and will be one of the largest shows of its type in the country.

It is an ideal family event, with models ranging from aeroplanes, helicopters, boats, cars and tanks to a full-size aero display on both days... you will be able to watch anything from the exciting Red Arrows syncro pair complete with smoke system to dolls' houses and Daleks.

Each day will have flying and a range of other demonstrations starting at about 10am.

On the Saturday, the event carries on into the night with hot-air balloons, a full-size flying display with pyrotechnics and the amazing night model-flying.

Camping is available for the weekend – see www.heritage-events.co.uk for details and a booking form.

And now you have the chance to win an extra-special day for the whole family at the show.

We have a unique prize that money simply can't buy. You can win:

- A family ticket (two adults and two children) to the show worth £35.
- A behind-the-scenes meet-and-greet with the builders and pilots of the Red Hawk Jets.
- A model-aircraft flying lesson with an expert display pilot.

To be in with a chance of winning our amazing prize, just tell us: **What is the new location for this year's Southern Model Show?**

To enter, text KOS followed by MODEL and your answer, then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, *eg* KOS MODEL ANSWER JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT.

Texts cost 50 pence plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply.

Please note that if you should enter after the closing deadline of Thursday, August 22, your entry will not be valid but you may still be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline (telephone 0844 3572403).

Alternatively, enter by post to Southern Model Show Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

Full terms and conditions of our competitions can be found on our website at www.kentnews.co.uk.

For more information about the show, visit www.heritage-events.co.uk or phone 08456 526263.

You can also follow the show on Twitter @southmodelshow.

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TRIBUTE

Thank you for helping keep Leia alive

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MOTHER raising money to give her sick daughter a chance of life has paid tribute to this newspaper for helping her reach her goal.

Kelly Corbett, from Maidstone, needed to raise £4,000 to buy a special physio vest, not available on the NHS, to help keep her one-year-old daughter Leia, who has cystic fibrosis, alive.

KoS highlighted the family's plight in March, sparking a flood of donations.

Combining this with money raised through fund-raising events, young Leia's family have been able to pay for the hi-tech vest.

"We were absolutely amazed at the amount of donations that came in after the story in KoS, along with lovely letters wishing Leia well," said Mrs Corbett.

"We would like to thank everyone who helped in all ways possible to raise the money for Leia's physio vest."

Photographer Mrs Corbett, 20, who lives with meter-fitter husband Sam, 22, and their three-year-old daughter Hollie, as well as Leia, said they had a trial run with a vest from King's College Hospital in June and it was a tremendous success.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a life-threatening condition that currently has no cure.

"One day we hope CF will stand for cure found, but in the meantime it is a constant battle to keep Leia alive," said Mrs Corbett. "She has already undergone two major operations and faces a lifetime of worry.

"The condition affects the organs, mainly the lungs and digestive system, by clogging them with thick, sticky mucus. Leia is currently on a lot of medication, including antibiotics, nebulisers and inhalers and has to have twice-daily chest physiotherapy called percussion."

However, the percussion treatment started to fail in keeping the mucus on the move, which is why the family needed to invest in a physio vest.

"It won't cure her, but it will improve her standard of living and help keep her alive," said Mrs Corbett. "It will dramatically change her life.

"The vest vibrates to loosen and thin mucus on the lungs, which will help with Leia's breathing. She can also continue with pretty much whatever she is doing while wearing the vest."

LIFE-CHANGING: Leia with the physio vest that has dramatically improved her way of life

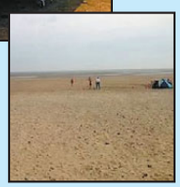
CYSTIC FIBROSIS

CF is an inherited disease caused by a faulty gene.

This gene controls the movement of salt and water in and out of cells, meaning that because of the fault the lungs and digestive system become clogged with mucus, making it hard to breathe and digest food.

There is no cure for CF, although there are treatments available to manage it.

Visit www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/ for help and information.



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KENT **REMEMBERED**

WRECKAGE: German bombers targeted Canterbury in June 1942, causing devastation across the city

Ellen answered the call during Canterbury blitz

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HELLFIRE Corner and the Battle of Britain are never far from people's minds when asked to describe wartime Kent.

Winston Churchill's secret bunker, buried deep in the White Cliffs of Dover, is another reminder of the critical role that this county played between 1939 and 1945.

Indeed, much of Kent was on red alert during the Second World War as Nazi planes looked for targets to destroy.

Canterbury, with its many historic buildings and precious cathedral, was a city whose residents felt particularly vulnerable.

The story of the bombing blitz on Canterbury is not as well documented as those of some other cities, but 94-year-old resident Ellen Greer remembers it well.

Mrs Greer was working in the Queen Elizabeth guest chamber in Canterbury high street as a bakery chef when war was declared in 1939.

"The officers of the Buffs Regiment commandeered the premises and I was asked if I would continue working there and cook for them, which I did for a while, until I joined the fire service," she wrote in an account for this newspaper.

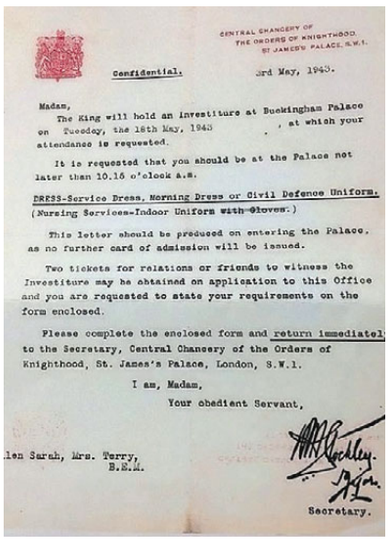
At that time the fire-service office was based in what is now the Barretts showroom by the Westgate Towers, and Mrs Greer was stationed between there and the main office on Best Lane holding the double title of catering officer and telephonist.

Having manned the post through several air-raids in the Canterbury area, Mrs Greer was on hand when a coded message was received warning of a possible attack on the cathedral city in June 1942.

"Three hundred firemen were deployed from London. My duties were to direct each crew as they arrived to the fires created by the dropping of 3,600 fire and 130 high-explosive bombs. Canterbury was a terrifying, blazing inferno – the sounds of sirens and bombs were deafening."

Several important buildings were destroyed, including the Corn Exchange, St Mary Bredin's Church, Simon Langton School and the cathedral library, but miraculously the cathedral itself remained standing.

"The London crews remained in Canterbury for three days," she wrote. "It proved a demanding task to provide an adequate amount of food for the numbers. I had to search restaurants, hotels and the food office because of the rationing and difficulties in the supply chain."



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Please complete the enclosed form and return immediately to the Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

len Sarah, Mrs. Terry,
B.E.M.

Secretary.

FOR SERVICES RENDERED: Ellen Greer's letter inviting her to Buckingham Palace to receive BEM

Mrs Greer married her husband Tony Terry in 1941 and went on to have two children, Michael and Tina. But it was on December 30, 1942, that the fire-service operative was surprised by another message from London.

"I received a letter informing me the King was 'graciously pleased' to award me the British Empire Medal for my valuable work when the enemy bombarded Canterbury; for carrying on alone for hours in the control room and efficiently dealing with the situation.

"It was also for making myself responsible for feeding and taking on the welfare of station personnel."

Mrs Greer went on to receive her medal from King George VI at Buckingham Palace on May 18, 1943.

"My first child was born on July 10, 1943, and had I revealed I was pregnant I would not have been able to attend the palace as the rules at the time would not have allowed me to do so."

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Kent Local Education Authority could introduce **changes to the Kent 11+ Test format** in September 2014 (Medway remains unchanged as we go to press) so it is now **more important than ever** to choose a **reputable, informed** and **leading** Tuition service. At the 11+ Academy we will support your child to **achieve their true potential** at this important time, and keep **parents informed** with regular assessments throughout the process.

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OPINION

Save our children's centres

Lib Dem **Jasper Gerard** urges you to take part in a consultation that could determine the future for Kent's most vulnerable youngsters

"IS your mum or dad home?" It is a question I've been asking a lot since setting myself the challenge of knocking on every door in Maidstone and The Weald.

Usually the child will shout to a parent, but most days I come across a youngster left home alone.

How shocking, then, that Conservative-run Kent County Council is to close 23 children's centres.

And this despite a legal obligation to keep them open unless there is an overwhelming case for closure.

Painful cuts must be made; budgetary pressures are intense and some centres were too big or poorly located. But there are alternatives, such as sharing sites with charities and exploring ways of generating income.

If you judge a society by how it cares for its children, Kent hardly shines.

It has all but axed the department monitoring vulnerable children, so now those in care or foster homes are left to the mercy of those looking after them. Most are nurtured by the kindest carers. A minority, however, are not.

My frustration? That County Hall is hurtling in the opposite direction of national policy.

Along with reviving the economy and helping create a million jobs, the biggest contribution the Liberal Democrats have made in government is improving life chances for children, especially those born in the unnoticed nooks of our meanest streets.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has massively extended child care, giving it to three- and four-year-olds and now to all disadvantaged two-year-olds.

He has given working families up to £1,200 a year towards looking after children. This is on top of the Pupil Premium, where every child on free lunches receives £1,300 a year extra towards their education.

Nobody claims this alone solves our deep social problems. We have a million people who are third-generation unemployed. Sometimes the challenge seems overwhelming.

A friend who assesses vulnerable children in a tough London borough describes entering flats where both parents are intravenous drug-users, where floors are littered with faeces, and where there is no food in the fridge – unless you count a bottle of vodka.

And that, she says, is classed as a 'coping household', as long as the child is not being physically or sexually abused.

If councils took every child into care that lived in conditions that you or I might consider less than ideal, the Government would have to pepper the country with new children's homes.

Where parents struggle to cope, children's centres are a survival line

This is the abyss from which we must climb. And this is the backdrop to Kent Conservatives taking more money from needy children. Children's centres can be a survival line.

I have asked repeatedly "So what is your new strategy for helping vulnerable children?"... only to be met by silence.

But how surprised should we be? The day it was announced that the axe was to fall on children's centres I met a plummy Conservative county councillor who boomed: "I don't believe in social mobility. I'm very happy with where I am in life."

We have one last chance to save children's centres.

Please take part in the consultation to show you want to keep them open.

Please email your views to info@maidstonelibdems.org.uk. I promise to pass them on.

KOS COMMENT

PredPol: all about cash or a genuine advance?

AS Kent Police enter the brave new world of predictive policing, it is almost inevitable that the subject of cost will arise in the near future.

PredPol will cost the county's force some £100,000 per year and, with cuts being made to staff, it's a near-certainty that questions will soon be asked as to whether the system is cost-effective.

There is another school of thought that suggests the PredPol system might have been brought in by Kent Police for that very reason – because there have been so many cuts in staff numbers.

Is PredPol just a way to save cash by making sure that our remaining officer resources are used efficiently? Or is it a genuine advancement for the service?

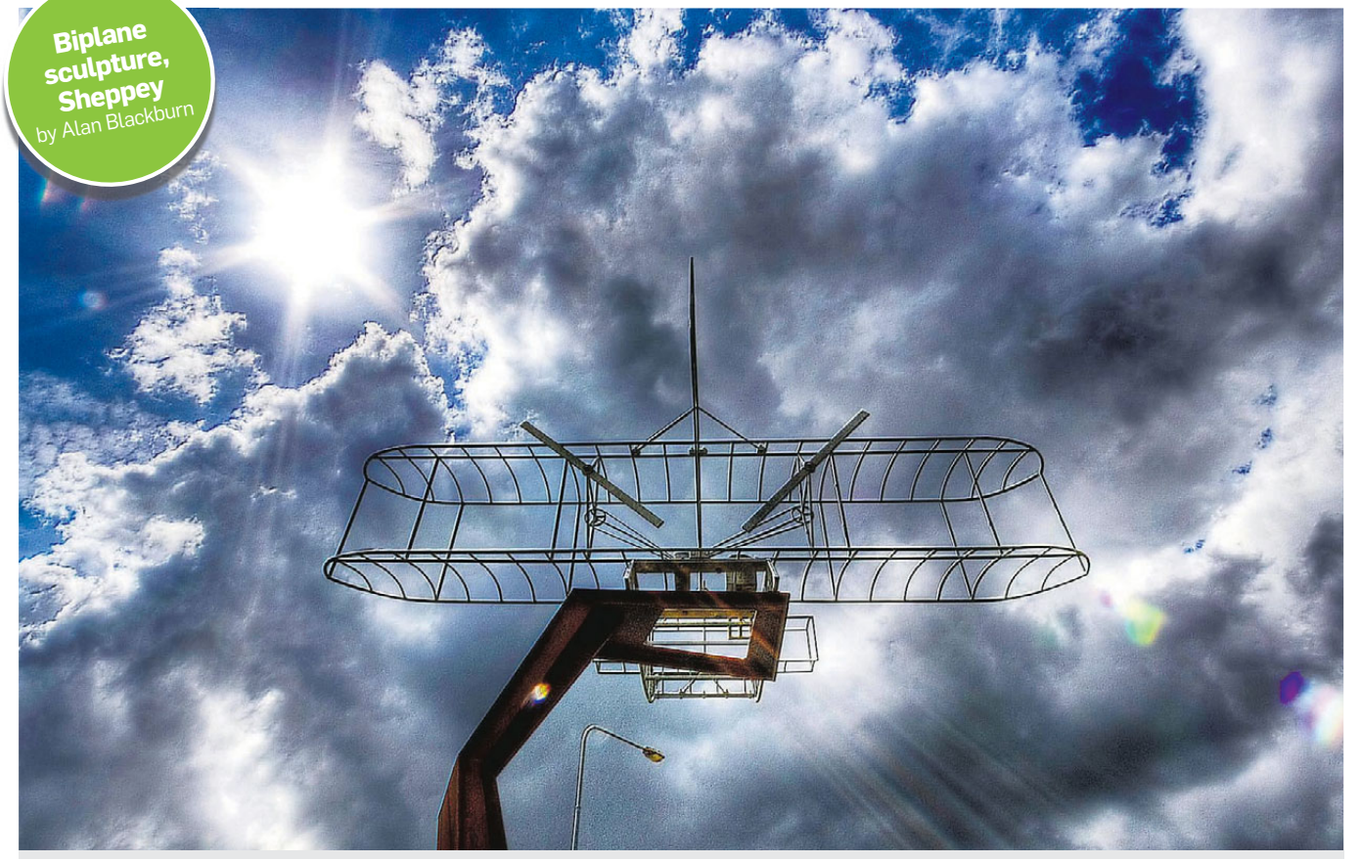
What price a beach hut?

A BEACH hut for sale in Seasalter with an asking price of almost £60,000 is astounding. For what could be viewed as just an over-sized garden shed, the price tag might make even the seagulls perching on the roof squawk in shock.

That is presumably before they eye the gold-leaf wallpaper for their nests.

Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter



Biplane sculpture, Sheppey
by Alan Blackburn

Images of Kent

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Fracking uses up our water

There are several reasons to reject fracking as a 'green' way of obtaining energy, but one of the most cogent is the vast quantities of fresh water required. Sea water is no use.

Setting up each well reportedly requires two million gallons, and six wells are normally established per square mile. If, for example, the whole of mid-Sussex (including Balcombe), an area of 129 square miles, were fracked and the water drawn from the largest reservoir in the South East, Bewl Water (capacity 31,000 megalitres), the process would consume some 22.5 per cent – almost a quarter – of that.

The water supply in south- east England is already precarious. Fracking would quite clearly place an impossible demand on it.

ARW Smith, Dartford

Can you home a rescue cat?

With reference to last week's article about the RSPCA and unwanted cats and kittens, it isn't only the RSPCA that is struggling.

Numerous small animal charities are also overflowing with cats and kittens.

The costs, which include veterinary care, are horrendous and there are also the logistics of where to put all these poor animals.

The situation isn't helped by so many landlords now refusing to let tenants keep their cats if they have to move into rented accommodation – not only have a lot of people had to give up their home, but their beloved cat as well.

Neutering is essential. Females can become pregnant while very young themselves – 'babies having babies'.

Some charities will assist with neutering costs and it is worth contacting them if you need some financial help.

R.A.I.N. offers help in our local area of Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. It is in everyone's interest to get as many cats neutered as possible.

It is stressful on the members of the animal welfare' team when you have to turn away someone who is desperate because there just isn't any room!

If you can offer a rescued cat or kitten a loving home, please contact an animal rescue charity near you.

Thank you.

Rescued Animals In Need
www.rain.org.uk

Jellyfish are a grim portent

Last week's article about a jellyfish invasion may be seen as good news about our weather, but I disagree about what it says about our seas.

A predator of the jellyfish is the sea turtle. Sadly, these are dying because they mistake plastic bags for jellyfish in the ocean, which kills them.

The reduction in numbers of sea turtles allows the jellyfish population to grow, meaning more on our coast.

Andre Menache, MRCVS, Sevenoaks

Development? Fix roads first

I agree with concerns raised by Lib Dem leader David Neve about the proposed Knights Park housing development in Tunbridge Wells (KoS 04/08).

Plenty of residents, such as me, who live on the Sherwood estate are highly concerned about this proposal by Dandara and the huge potential negative impact both on traffic flows and the environment.

Those woods and fields are the green lungs of Sherwood and should be protected.

The proposed housing estate also only has one access road in and out at Knights Way and if there was a fire or major traffic accident the whole area, including the primary school, would be vulnerable. I am surprised Dandara does not address this problem.

The council also wants to add to the existing gridlock by selling off land and building another business park nearby. I am in favour of new jobs, but let's sort out the gridlock first.

The Conservative-led council has over recent years approved development after development along Longfield Road without sorting out the long-running traffic problems.

It is time to call a halt until these can at last be sorted out for the good of all concerned.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

Train services take too long

In reference to the article about Southeastern promising 3,500 new seats and Passenger Focus quite rightly questioning where these seats will come from (KoS, 04/08), I wonder if and how Southeastern will answer.

The article mentions upgrades in the London area but nothing about Kent, where these problems still exist.

Southeastern's policy on overcrowding has been to put trains into stations commuters do not really want to go to and slowing trains to make others seem fast.

The most important aspect of the timing for commuters is not necessarily the speed of the train but how long it takes for passengers to travel from their home to their destination.

This has been ignored in a futile attempt to try to force people to use the far-north London station of St Pancras, where there are trains running almost empty even in the rush hour.

It is known that the quickest way to travel from, say, Sittingbourne to Westminster is, or should be, via Victoria and not via St Pancras. The service to Victoria could easily be reduced to take 45 minutes and not 75 minutes as now.

The main advantage in reducing the time a train takes to travel from A to B is that the train can cover more journeys in a day, thus creating the appearance of having more stock than the company has.

Far better investments would be to quadruple the track from Shortlands to Herne Hill, as planned in the 1860s, make more use of other London stations like Blackfriars and Kensington Olympia, increase the capacity of Cannon Street to have 12 platforms and allow access from platforms one to six at London Bridge.

Jackie Davidson, Sittingbourne Loonies

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AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

BEAUTIFUL olive skinned sensual lady, adventurous, with some naughty ways, discreet and seeks same. Age/looks/nationality unimportant but must be adventurous. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 345725**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

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LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

GEORGINA widow, WLTM gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving, happy go lucky, honest, seeks special lady for fun and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406333**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self-employed, seeks female for 1-2-1 relationship, likes meals out, places of interest, holidays. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406559**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well-built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

CANTERBURY white mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build black/white/Asian/oriental female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

Gay Seeking

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Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735**

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for casual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean-shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway, seeks sports buddies into table tennis, golf, snooker and pool. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405417**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

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By **GREG MILES**

BY DAY she makes tea and coffee, but at the weekend Natalie Coyle has 90,000 fans on their feet singing the national anthem.

The weekend before her appearance at Whitstable Castle later this month, the soprano will be singing at Wembley Stadium for the third time.

Despite her new-found fame, the 25-year-old is keeping up her day job as a personal assistant at an office while she progresses her music career.

A UK-wide tour with classical group and Brit Award-winners Blake was followed by two performances at Wembley, where she sang the national anthem at the Johnstone's Paint Trophy football final between Southend United and Crewe in April and then the Championship play-off final between Crystal Palace and Watford in May.

Coyle, who grew up in Scotland before moving to Surrey as a child, was called in at the 11th hour for her first Wembley appearance after fans were in uproar about the presenters of Sky's Soccer AM programme originally being named as the singers of the national anthem.

Coyle's latest trip to the national stadium, before she comes to Kent on Friday, August 30, will be for rugby league's Tetley's Challenge Cup final, where she will lead the singing of Abide With Me and God Save The Queen.

"I like watching sports, but I'm officially the worst sports person in the world," she said.

'The day after my first Wembley performance I was back in the office making tea'

"I was picked last for everything at school, so it's quite funny that I'm performing at Wembley Stadium.

"It's good because you get to watch the match afterwards. You arrive four hours before you perform and there are only about 20 people wandering around.

"I cannot imagine what it's like for the players. I try to zone out and prepare for what I'm about to do.

"It's a really weird experience, but I enjoy the atmosphere.

"I went to Wembley before I performed there and sat in the very back of the stadium. When I performed [the first time] I was lucky I could see my vocal coach. The whole time I just thought 'It's only a couple of minutes, you've sung this loads of times before'."

But Coyle's daily routine brings her back down to earth after those big performances with a day job as a personal assistant at an office in Knightsbridge, London.

"The day after my first performance at Wembley I was back in the office making tea. It's really strange," she said. "I get dressed for a lot of big events in Vivienne Westwood, then I just go back to work. But it's nice because it helps keep me grounded. They [colleagues] all watched me at Wembley. They are so supportive that one day the office closed to see me perform. Living in London is a huge expense, and so is paying for lessons and training.

"There's so much stuff that goes into it, you wouldn't realise. That's why I keep doing my day job."

Classical music is certainly staking a claim for wider public appeal these days, helped largely by the likes of her touring partners Blake, whose ability to put their spin on pop-chart hits has seen them selling out nationwide tours.

Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins has also played a huge part in changing perceptions of the genre as elitist.

Coyle said: "It is so expensive to go to theatre, but there is a shift change to make it more accessible. It's a really exciting time.

'When I was younger I helped my mum pay for lessons by working in a old people's home'

"People are realising that classical is used all the time in things like adverts, but we are not used to thinking about it. I think because of people like Katherine it's more accessible and modern.

"One of the guys from hip-hop group N-Dubz, Fraser, is trained as a classical guitarist. He's trying to make out that classical music is cool. There are lots of people in rock'n'roll with classical backgrounds."

Coyle's own story of her journey into the music industry is another that adds weight to the idea.

"I wanted to be a doctor, but I had bad dyslexia that hampered my chances," she said. "I had a passion for singing, but I never thought it would happen – millions of girls dream of being a singer."

She made that dream come true, though, by having singing lessons as a teenager before graduating from Sheffield University with a degree in music.

Her career was given a boost with an offer to train with Steven Maughan at Amsterdam Opera House, and later with Jesus Leon in London.

"I started singing when I was nine. I was in the garden and the neighbour came out and said I should have lessons," she said.

"Neither of my parents are musical. Both came from humble backgrounds – there was no money to have lessons or anything. I took up playing the piano and violin, and just started listening to more and more music.

"Some people assume it is elitist, but it's not. When I was younger I used to help my mum pay for lessons by working in an old people's home."

Finding her voice was just the first challenge for Coyle as performing in front of a crowd became an issue.

"I started doing gigs and was really bad with stage fright. It would make me physically ill," she said.

"I forced myself to organise charity concerts so there was no way I could pull out. That got me over stage fright."

■ **Natalie Coyle will be at Whitstable Castle on Friday, August 30. Tickets for the black-tie event, which starts at 7pm, are £55. For more details, visit www.englisheventscompany.co.uk.**

GROUNDED: Natalie Coyle continues to work as a PA despite making a noise in the world of classical music

From performing at Wembley Stadium to working as an office PA, Natalie Coyle is keeping her feet firmly on the floor

weekend

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Author explains how two Kent places made it to the crap list

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

HOW would you feel if your town was labelled one of the crappest in the country? Well, two places in Kent have been placed on that most undesirable of lists.

Medway (all right, that's several towns) and Sheerness both fit the bill when it comes to crap towns, at least according to those voting for the country's worst places in which to live.

Ten years on from the original Crap Towns: 50 Worst Places To Live In The UK, author Sam Jordison has included the two Kent locations on the short-list for his third book in the series, Crap Towns Return, due for release in October.

The list of 100 covers a broad spectrum from Gateshead to Glastonbury and Stoke to Stratford-upon-Avon.

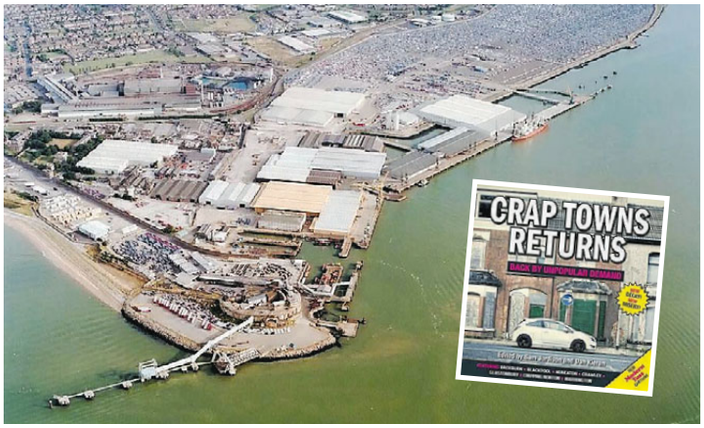
Stratford-upon-Avon, you ask? On the face of it, Shakespeare's birthplace might not be so crap, but imagine if you lived there – you would be faced with a legacy that brings with it thousands of arty literature tourists a year. It's easy to understand how that would be tiresome.

Likewise, Glastonbury will forever be associated with Matt Eavis's music festival, which no doubt brings with it a similar annoyance for residents.

However, there are no such excuses for others on the list, with Slough not needing any introduction given its business-park reputation, while there are dozens more that are just drab, soulless and grey places in which to live.

Jordison, who writes for The Guardian, was inspired to write the original book because of his feelings about his home town in Lancashire.

"I grew up in Morecambe, which was a terrible mess, especially 10 years ago," he told this newspaper. "It was a really beautiful place, but they have made some terrible planning decisions when it could be a really lovely place.



JUDGEMENT: Sheerness has been named as one of the 50 crappest towns in the country

"It's about the self-deprecating British humour as well. You can laugh at things like this. Hopefully, by laughing about it we can make a few changes, too."

The decision to do the follow-up book came with a bit of help from Take That.

"There was an article about the first book on the Independent website and someone had linked it to somewhere that had it in the most-read stories on their website," he said.

"Gary Barlow then saw it and tweeted about it and so I thought it might be that the time has come again for crap towns."

Jordison put Kent's two contributions on the list after overwhelming demand from the public. He feels that Bluewater shopping centre has a lot to answer for.

"I have been to Chatham and I wasn't overwhelmed. Bluewater is nearby and is a great ugly thing that must really drain the life out of the towns around it. It's a big parasite sucking the life out of them.

"People have talked about Bluewater and the effect it has had on Medway. I get the impression it's in limbo. It's not exactly cut off from London, but it is in a funny sort of way.

"I've not been to Sheerness, but from what people tell me it's quite a depressing place. It just seems really strange. Lots of caravans, factories and warehouses."

One of the features in the latest book is a list of the 10 most-improved crap towns.

"Perceptions have changed and so have quite a few towns. Some have got better in the last 10 years. We are publishing a list of those, which my mum is pleased about. She said she wants to see me being positive.

"There are no criteria for towns being in the book – it's all for different reasons. It's almost a back-handed compliment. Local politicians had always regaled against it. When I actually spoke to people, I was given an honest response – they're not lying about those places."

Crap Towns Return is co-written by Sam Jordison and Dan Kieran. It is due for release on Thursday, October 10, and published by Quercus, priced at £10.

The Maintenance Man rounds off rep season

THE final part of Sarah Thorne Theatre Club's summer repertory season takes place at the end of the month with The Maintenance Man.

The final play in the season explores the concepts of marriage and infidelity through bickering couple Bob and Christine.

The summer rep is directed and produced by Michael Friend and co-producer Michael Wheatley-Ward.

The Maintenance Man is at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs on Thursday and Friday, August 22-23, at 7.30pm, on Saturday, August 24, at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and on Sunday, August 25, at 6.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £12.50 for members, or £14.50 for non-members. To book, phone 0845 2626263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Develop your writing skills in inspirational castle setting

ASPIRING writers can learn all about the trade on a one-day novel-writing course at Hever Castle this autumn.

The course Write That Novel, run by author Mark Oldfield, covers a variety of techniques and approaches to help writers develop storylines and structures and plan their book.

Participants will study ways of building suspense and tension, creating atmosphere and developing realistic characters as well as how to write convincing dialogue. They also receive worksheets and copies of the exercises and diagrams of materials used.

The course takes place on

Friday, October 18, and runs from 10am-4pm. It costs £120 per person and includes refreshments and lunch.

For more details, phone 01732 861800 or email tudor@hevercastle.co.uk.

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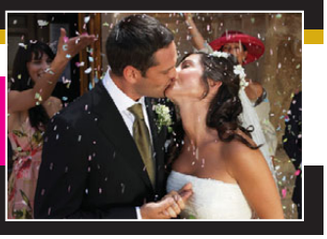

Kent BRIDE is on sale now at all good retail outlets or call 01303 817072 to order for home delivery.
You can also order your copy online by visiting: www.buyamag.co.uk/kentbride

More great wedding ideas at: www.weddingsite.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

YOUR **WEEKEND**

Keepers make most of wildcat kitten cuddles

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A CONSERVATION trust near Herne Bay is playing a vital role in helping preserve one of Britain's rarest mammals – the wildcat.

Last month Wildwood Trust had a new arrival in the form of a female wildcat kitten, which is now being hand-reared after difficulties with its mother.

It is one of just a handful of captive wildcats in the country, while there are thought to be fewer than 400 in the wild.

The kitten's mother, Carna, was born at Wildwood five years ago, while her father RJ is on a breeding loan from the British Wildlife Centre.

Wildwood's keeper team has mounted a 24-hour nursing watch, hand-feeding the kitten and tending to its every need.

Keeper Sally Barns said: "It's such a privilege to protect this precious wildcat kitten – to nurse such an amazing animal and have the honour to protect such a rare creature is the high point of my career.

"The team are working around the clock to ensure its survival and we are so proud she is in excellent health.

ADORABLE: Wildcat kitten

"Wildcats are amazing animals and it's not like a domestic cat – as a wild animal they have to grow up fast and our kitten has already got four teeth that can give quite a nip. Her claws are well formed and she is already proving quite a handful.

"Although adorable, wildcat kittens can never be tamed and once weaned we will return her to the more natural surroundings of her enclosure, never to be cuddled again."

The trust's chief executive Peter Smith feels there needs to be an attitude change to help protect wildcats.

"If we are to rescue them in the wild we must make a radical shift in land use in our wilderness and upland areas," he said. "Overgrazing by sheep and deer are the real cause of the loss of the Caledonian forest – that is the main reason behind the wildcats' demise.

"A radical shift in abandoning subsidies to agriculture, shifting taxation on to land values and a change to land-ownership laws are desperately needed if we are to protect these animals.

"One of the best things we can do to protect wildcats is to reintroduce lynx back to the UK. They will disperse the unnaturally high concentrations of deer held by shooting estates in Scotland and allow the natural regeneration of the Caledonian forest."

Visitors to Wildwood can see the kitten's parents, Carna and RJ, but will have to wait a little longer for the newborn to be weaned before she goes on show to the public.

For more information, you can visit www.wildwoodtrust.org or phone 01227 712 111.

Singing Jason returns to laughter

COMEDIAN Jason Manford will be coming to Margate on a new tour this winter.

The northerner will be performing at Margate's Winter Gardens in December with a show full of anecdotes, misunderstandings and audience banter.

He has had a change of career recently, with appearances on singing show Born To Shine.

After his opera-singing turn saw him emerge the winner on this ITV1 show, Manford put his new-found talent into practice, joining Alfie Boe on tour ahead of a run in West End musical Sweeney Todd alongside Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton.

The funnyman has also been on BBC Two's QI and Big Fat Quiz of the Year on Channel 4.

Jason Manford will be at the Winter Gardens on Thursday, December 12. The show starts at 8pm. Tickets are £22.50. To book, phone 01843 292795, or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk for more information.

Steeleye Span will (folk) rock the castle

FOLK-ROCK pioneers Steeleye Span are coming to Hever Castle at the end of the month.

The group, whose career has spanned six decades, are playing live as a six-piece band, and have found inspiration in the work of author Terry Pratchett.

They are collaborating on a project to record an album based on Pratchett's Wintersmith novel, a tale of ancient rituals and secret folk dances; it is planned for release later this year.

Steeleye Span play at Hever Castle on Saturday, August 24. Doors open at 6.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets are priced at £23 or £15; visit www.heverfestival-tickets.co.uk.

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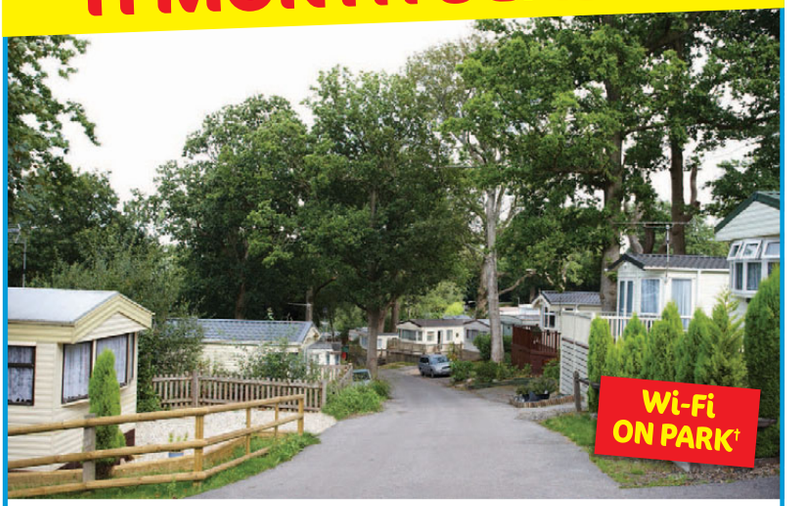

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BEAUPORT Holiday Park

Venetian fete will make waves on canal

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE floating spectacle that is the Hythe Venetian Fete returns on Wednesday.

The biannual event on the Royal Military Canal became a tradition during the late 19th century and – barring world wars and occasional lack of funds – has taken place ever since.

Thousands are expected to flock to the historic canal on Wednesday for two parades of floating creations from a range of organisations, schools and companies.

Preceding the parades will be four days of free music on the canal banks.

John Schoner, chairman of the Hythe Venetian Fete Society, is keeping his fingers crossed for good weather.

"We've been planning the event for more than a year – now the Hythe Venetian Fete is shipshape and ready to go," he said. "With a five-hour programme of spectacle, music, family fun, entertainment and a grand firework display, this year's show will be as enjoyable as ever and we are looking forward to welcoming thousands of spectators to the Royal Military Canal.

"It's our sincere hope that the weather will be kind on fete day and also for the five free concerts on the canal bank on preceding days so that spectators and performers will have a really great time."

The parade takes place on Wednesday (August 21), with gates opening at 4pm and music starting at 4.30pm. The daylight parade opens at 7pm, with the night parade of illuminated floats starting at 9pm.

Visit www.venetian-fete.com for details.

Meanwhile, over at Broadstairs...

A PACKED programme of seaside entertainment is on offer at Broadstairs Water Gala.

The event, which has been running for more than 125 years, will see activities taking place in and around Viking Bay, Victoria Gardens and the bandstand on Wednesday (August 21).

The gala starts at 9.30am with the Teddy Bears' Picnic at Lillyputt Mini Golf followed by a day of seaside activities, including games, volleyball and kayaking, surfing and paddle-boarding try-out sessions and sandcastle competitions.

There is also the return of the Broadstairs Sailing Club gala regatta.

Highlights will include a jet-ski stunt demonstration and a flyboard display in Viking Bay, followed by an aerobatic display featuring the historic Catalina seaplane, the vintage Boeing Stearman biplane and other aircraft.

Victoria Gardens will host a family fun-fair with craft and bric-a-brac stalls all along the promenade and children's entertainment at the bandstand throughout the day, including Punch and Judy.

The day will finish with dancing and live music from 8pm on the bandstand and a grand firework finale at 9.45pm.

Visit www.broadstairswatergala.co.uk to find out more.

FAB FOUR

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
Friday and Saturday, August 23-24
Phone: 01732 865224
Website: www.hevercastle.co.uk
Jousting tournament: Enjoy a weekend of traditional medieval activities, with knights involved in stunts and fights in head-to-head jousting action.

Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, August 31, 7.30pm
Phone: 01892 530613
Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
The Legend Continues: The world's No 1 Michael Jackson impersonator, Navi, is coming to the Wells with his live band and dancers. Tickets £18.50.

Brogdale Farm, Faversham
Saturday and Sunday, August 24-25
Phone: 01795 536250
Website: www.brogdale.org
Brogdale Cider Festival: The best of Kent's cider will be on show at Brogdale's annual festival, with demonstrations and tastings available. Tickets £8.

Biddenden
Saturday and Sunday, August 24-25
Phone: 07956827377
Email: info@tractorfest.co.uk
Tractorfest: Exhibitions, displays, local food and drink, rides and entertainment will all be found at Tractorfest this year at the Gordon Jones Playing Field in Tenterden Road, Biddenden.

Broadstairs Water Gala Viking Bay

Wednesday August 21st 9.00am to 10.30pm

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* Beach Volleyball, Handball, Tug o War.
* Sandcastle /Sand sculpture competition
* Water activities - Try out lessons
* Punch & Judy on the bandstand
* Seashore & Rock Pool discovery with the Rock Doc
* Walkabout characters & storytellers
* King Neptune rises from the sea
* Daytime & Evening bandstand entertainment
* Craft & bric a brac stalls
* Sailing Regatta * Family Fun fair
*Firework Display from Viking Fireworks

For up to date information go to
WWW.BROADSTAIRSWATERGALA.CO.UK

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Step up to the challenge and try out a new walk at festival

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IF you're looking for an alternative way to get fit and see the wonders of the Kent countryside, then the Deal Walking Festival could be for you.

Now in its fifth year, the festival offers 23 walks ranging from two to 18 miles around the area and led by experienced and expert guides.

The festival, which runs from Thursday to Wednesday, August 22-28, includes health walks, historical and special-interest walks including one on which you can learn about the smugglers of Deal, a disabled-friendly adventure, a family treasure trail and one focusing on wildlife.

White Cliffs Ramblers chairman Margaret Lubbock said: "We hope the festival programme will meet the needs of local walkers and visitors to Deal, whether their wish is for a demanding yomp or a stroll."

Highlights include the 18-mile Three Pits Walk, which visits the sites of the three former collieries at Betteshanger, Tilmanstone and Snowdown, on Saturday, August 24. There is also a 14-mile stretch of the Timeball & Telegraph Trail – a 103-mile path linking the timeballs of Deal and Greenwich – on Sunday, August 25, and on the following day there is an evening walk to Dover ending with fish and chips.

EXPLORE: The festival launches with a three-mile walk taking in Deal Castle

The festival launches at Deal Castle on Thursday, August 22, with the Three Castles Walk. The three-mile walk starts at 2pm and also visits Sandown and Walmer castles.

The festival was previously organised by Walmer man Alan Sutton, who founded the Happy Walkers group and played an important part in Deal becoming the first town in the south of England to win Walkers Are Welcome status.

The festival is now under the guidance of White Cliffs Ramblers – east Kent's branch of the national ramblers' organisation. WCR celebrates its 25th anniversary year, having been founded in Deal in 1989.

For a full list of walks, visit www.dealwalkingfestival.org.uk or find a leaflet in local libraries and tourist information centres.

iPhone captures the castle

A PHOTOGRAPHIC course with a difference is taking place at Leeds Castle, with participants swapping traditional methods for smartphones.

As the name suggests, the iPhoneography Workshop will not be sticking to the teachings of SLRs but instead will be focusing on smartphone cameras and how that technology can be put to good use.

The course will be taking place on two dates at the 900-year-old castle near Maidstone, with creative sessions in developing an eye for spotting the perfect picture.

Lessons are then put into practice as participants explore the grounds and gardens of the castle and capture photographs with guidance from photographer Karl Grupe.

He began his teaching career coaching athletes at the Special Olympics and working as a camp councillor for the YMCA in Canada. Now Grupe works as a professional photographer and adult-education lecturer.

The workshops take place on Saturday, September 28, and Saturday, November 16. The courses run from 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm. The workshop cost £40 per person (which includes a one-day ticket to Leeds Castle and refreshments).

• Visit www.leeds-castle.co.uk for more information.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September

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FOOD&DRINK AWARDS 2013

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the very first *Kent Life & Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards

THE Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards will take place at Tudor Park Hotel on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 6.30pm to midnight.

These brand-new awards are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the good and the great from the county's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers – people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies nominated will all be voted for by you, our readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your farmers' market or farm shop.

Entry forms are available online at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

Entries close on Friday, August 30, 2013.

Our panel of judges will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony in November, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal based on locally-sourced produce before finding out if they are a winner.

This is the first Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you the chance to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry, the ones that consistently go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a budding chef or local producer, then help to spread the word among your clients and visitors.

With our online voting system up and running, it takes no time at all to cast your vote.

The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than number of votes, so everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small your business is.

Event Partner:

Tudor Park
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AWARDS CRITERIA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Pomegranate Catering

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink business who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. It could be any food and drink business but we want to know what impact they have made on the local community and whether they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience? Tell us who has impressed you.

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

This category is here for one reason and that is to praise our many local butchers and everything they do for Kent. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Does the butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them.

BEST TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

A Audley

We recognise that tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing about your favourites.

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This category acknowledges the hard work Kent's independent food and drink retailers put into giving their customers the best possible experience in-store, reinforcing their role at the heart of the community and showing true innovation with their displays. We are looking for independent retailers who put local and seasonal at the heart of the food and drink experience and who are proud to work with and support the best the Garden of England can offer.

BEST FARM SHOP

Waggon at Hale

Just like our Farmers' Markets, a good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

BEST FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCER

Z&D Vintners

This category celebrates our local suppliers and producers who play such a vital role in the food community. We are looking for someone who consistently provides a reliable quality of products and services to their customers. So whether it's your local bakery, drinks merchant or meat producer, we want to know why this person or business goes the extra mile for you and gets your vote.

BEST FAMILY DINING VENUE

Eastwell Manor Ashford

We've all experienced that sinking feeling when you go out for a meal with the family and you know almost immediately the proprietors and staff would have preferred you to have left the kids at home. We want to know about the exact opposite, those establishments that welcome and treat with respect your whole party, from elderly to very young, and ideally don't banish you too an outer room away from the main dining area. Do they have high-quality menus that suit every age group, provide high chairs if needed, offer useful distractions such as paper and crayons for younger children to use at the table? Is there a children's play area and good baby-changing facilities in the toilets? And most importantly is the food of an excellent standard and worthy of mum and dad as well as the younger members of the party? Tell us all about your best family dining experience in Kent.

BEST PUB OF THE YEAR

faversham.org connect

Combining country pubs and dining pubs, the whole eating-out experience needs to be taken into account in this category. Customer service, value for money and the quality of the food should all be accounted for. How well does the establishment you recommend use and name local suppliers and seasonal produce throughout its menus? Neighbourhood pubs are at the heart of the local community and this category is your chance to give something back for all the enjoyment they give you. Are the staff friendly and welcoming, even if it isn't your local? Are there local ales, juices, wines and ciders available to purchase and if so, are they proudly on display? Also, note the quality and speed of the service, the overall atmosphere and ambience, both inside and outside in the beer garden.

BEST FARMER'S MARKET

MyFerryLink
Owned and run by the crew

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers, is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks, is it well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance, is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Romney Marsh Fish Market

We suspect that this category will be one of our most coveted awards, as the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced and does it change with the seasons? Does chef support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Look through the wine list, are there local as well as international wines and sparkling wines and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from our Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Swans Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

BEST KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO

Vaughans of Maidstone

Kent has a food and drink scene that is more vibrant than many others across the UK. This category celebrates the individual who has made the most impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent food and drink hero.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Ali manages expectations while Minster sets the tandoori pace

ALI AZMAL could be just another Indian waiter in another Indian restaurant, but his is a tale that is worth hearing, not only because it paints the picture of the man behind one of the most recognisable smiles on the Thanet culinary circuit but because it helps explains the extraordinary success of the Minster Tandoori.

Ali's cheeky grin and keen banter will be familiar to many across the isle as this is a man who has learnt his trade in a number of east Kent's finest Indian establishments.

Together with Minster, it was at The Simla Brasserie in Cliftonville and The Laagan Restaurant in Ash that he honed his waiting skills to such effect that he took on the role of manager at the Laagan in 2006 before the Minster position proved an irresistible draw.

He is now manager of a restaurant that pulls in a rich range of people from way outside the environs of the village.

It's all a long way from Bangladesh, where he was born before moving with the family to east London in the early 1980s.

Family ties brought Ali, pictured, to Minster in 1993, so to finally pitch up 16 years later as the main man at the restaurant where it all began is especially satisfying.

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

"After 20 years, I'm managing the Minster Tandoori restaurant – this was my dream from the start," Ali told me while serving the pappadums with exquisite chutneys that got my meal under way.

"You can only go up so high, but this is where I learnt the trade. Some leave the industry, or stay as waiters, but I always had the desire for this. It's come full circle."

Indeed so, but is there a secret to the success of a restaurant that continues to set the tandoori pace in this part of the world?

"It's commitment and ambition," Ali told me. "A restaurant is all about putting the customers first – I make them feel special and learn the little quirks they have in regard to their food. I never forget a face."

Fine words, for sure, but are they still matched by the food that has won the Minster Tandoori such a rich reputation?

Resoundingly, the answer is yes.

Taking a drier deviation from my usual Indian route, on this visit I started with reshmi kebab (mince patty with omelette) before revelling in the heavenly main of sizzling tandoori king prawns with special fried rice. Sag aloo (potatoes and spinach) and a keema (mince) nan bread completed the spread.

The meal was brilliant in every sense – I have discovered one of the perfect combinations to bring out the very best of a tandoori meal.

And 'best' is a word that is never very far away from the Minster Tandoori. Happily, it has strong rivals to the local crown – a sure sign of Thanet's increasingly strong dining offering – but this is still a place that is setting the pace. Just ask Ali!

Dave Mairs

■ **Minster Tandoori**
1 High Street, Minster CT12 4BU
(telephone 01843 822516/7)

Spanish Jamie Oliver on a tapas revolution

BLUEWATER shopping centre's Spanish celebrity chef Omar Allibhoy is releasing his first cook-book.

The 29-year-old, who owns the acclaimed Tapas Revolution at Bluewater, has said it is his mission to make Spanish dishes as popular as Italian in the UK, starting from his Kent base.

Named the Spanish Jamie Oliver, Allibhoy's book claims to have 100 recipes to make Brits choose chorizo and tortilla over spaghetti and lasagna.

Allibhoy has worked in numerous restaurants, including a stint under the watchful eye of world-renowned three-Michelin-starred chef Ferran Adrià of elBulli in Catalonia.

Pick up a pastry in Penshurst's pantry

HISTORIC Penshurst Place, once owned by King Henry VIII, has launched its new contemporary café, the Porcupine Pantry.

Open daily through the year, the pantry is located outside the main house and grounds' ticketed area so is free to visit; it has seating inside and out for up to 82 people.

It will serve from breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea menus, including savoury and sweet pastries baked on the premises.

Owner Lord De L'Isle said: "Our new 'place to eat' will add to the visitor experience here at Penshurst Place and has been built in response to customer comments received."

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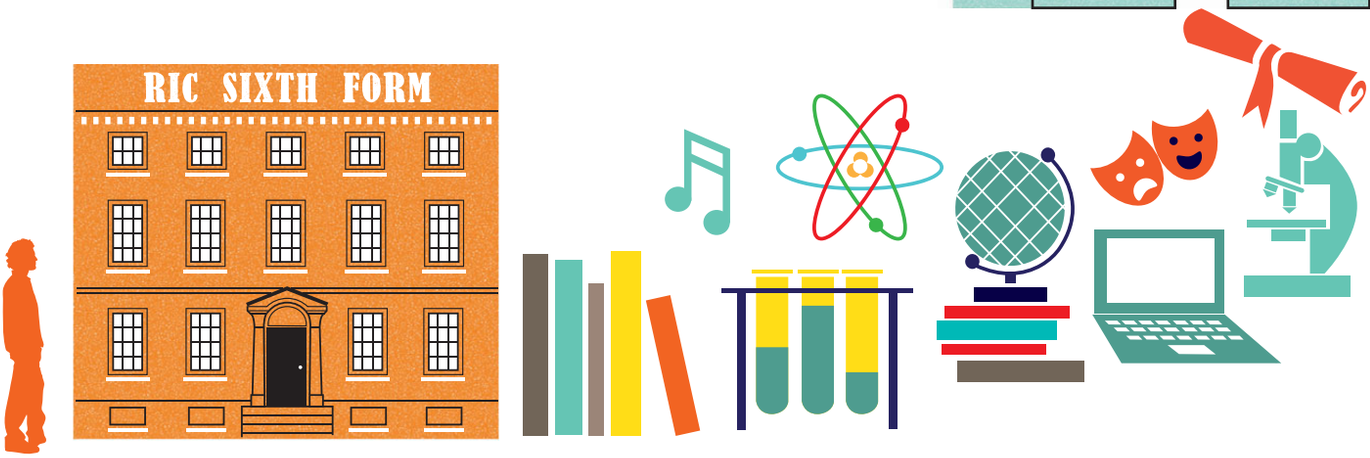
A Co-educational Day and Boarding School



Your route to a top university

AS and A level retakes

Resit students at Kent's specialist sixth form day and boarding college make informed choices about A levels and upgrade their university prospects

"On last year's UCAS form I applied for courses that needed low grades. Instead of accepting these I opted to retake." *Efosa Osaghae 2012 confirmed place at Bolton. 2013 confirmed place at King's College London*

"Retaking raised my confidence and ambition - my previous school told me I would never get into a Russell Group University." *Maddie Russell - 2012 confirmed place at Manchester Met. 2013 confirmed place at Exeter*

- 2011 and 2012 Good Schools Guide Award Winner
- Regular Medicine, Dentistry, Law and Veterinary Science placements
- Top 5 University placements 2005-12: Leeds, Nottingham, Sussex, Cambridge, Imperial
- 2013 Retake placements include Royal Veterinary College, Loughborough, Newcastle, Surrey

Flexible one year, short and part-time retake courses

- Combine gap term Sept-Jan with intensive retakes Jan-June
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- All exam boards
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- No uniform
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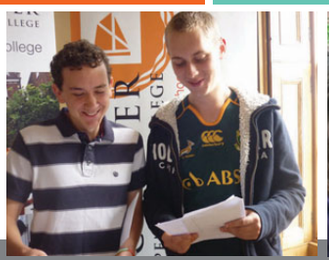

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Facilities and support help student focus on choosing a fascinating career path

K COLLEGE graduate Vanessa Sumner is now a medical photographer. She shares her experience of study.

"I completed a BA photography top-up in 2012, achieving 1st-class honours.

"I decided to study through the University of Kent via K College mainly due to financial reasons; not only was it a much more affordable option but also because of the photographic facilities on offer.

"They were just as good, if not better, than some other universities offering the same course.

"Support was always on hand for students whenever it was needed – you could even arrange extra tutorials on top of those already structured into the timetable.

"I really enjoyed the freedom this course allowed me – it was great to experiment, which

became a big part of helping me find my strengths and weakness within photography and deciding on my career path.

"I chose a future in medical photography while doing my degree. I worked hard to achieve a good degree result to give myself the edge over other candidates, as well as gaining experience in working with patients.

"Medical photography opens up your eyes to many things you wouldn't normally witness and to be part of it is so exciting – there is never a dull day.

"I never know what I could be photographing next – the human body is amazing.

"Recently I helped photograph a heart-bypass operation. Witnessing that, being able to see a beating heart close up, has definitely been a highlight so far."

Pass rates to celebrate for dedicated pupils

THE Isle of Sheppey Academy is celebrating success across the board.

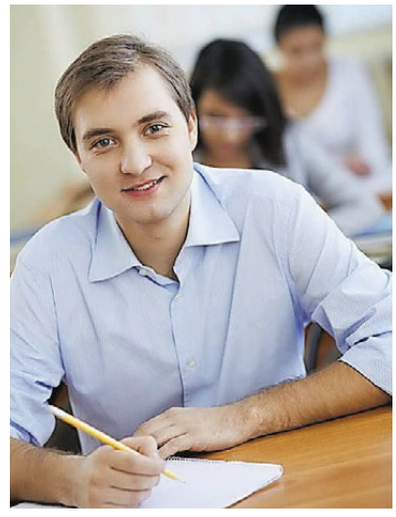
The academy had 55 A-level or BTEC Level 3 candidates. There was a 92 per cent pass rate of all A-levels. The average point score per entry was 183 and the average point score per student was 524. Ninety per cent of sixth-formers achieved two or more A-level passes or their equivalent.

One hundred per cent pass rates were recorded in six A-level subjects. The highlight was law, where every candidate recorded an A, B or C grade, along with sociology, history, citizenship, English literature and sport. There were 100 per cent BTEC pass rates in art, child-care, performing arts, public services and sport.

There were a number of outstanding individual students. Charlotte Ainsworth achieved three A-level passes, including A in law.

In BTEC, students who obtained a number of distinctions were Regan Carter-Rowe, Kathleen Collins, Georgia Gray, Abigail McArthur, Chanelle Nash and Chloe Packman, who all received three awards in art. Michelle Cumber, Kelly Hamper, Luke Hayes, Paige Lendon and Molly Sharpe all bagged three distinctions in performing arts.

Ami Skinner achieved three distinction star grades in public services, alongside Shane Weston with one distinction and Aaron Walker with two distinctions in sport, completing the top achievers at BTEC.



Principal David Day said: "We have experienced great success with the vocational BTEC courses and once again in academic A-levels such as law and English literature the students can feel very proud of their achievements and their teachers can take heart from the impact of their teaching."

K COLLEGE
YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITY

Did you know that K College offers a range of university programmes awarded by University of Kent, University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Brighton and Edexcel? Whether you're looking for a place through Clearing or want to apply as a mature student, there's a whole world of opportunity on your doorstep!

Studying locally has its benefits:
- Lower costs – no rented accommodation and low travel expenses
- Affordable qualifications – our tuition fees are extremely competitive
- High quality learning experience – recognised by the Quality Assurance Agency
- Smaller class sizes – giving you personal attention and extra support
- A solid foundation for work – Foundation Degrees combine work-based learning with theory taught in class
- Strong links to industry – partnerships with employers across the South-East

We still have places on a selection of university programmes based at our Ashford and Tonbridge campuses, in areas such as business, creative arts, construction, computing, education and engineering.

Canterbury Christ Church University
University of Greenwich
University of Kent

To find out more about what's still available and for details of the clearing process for our programmes, please visit:
www.kcollege.ac.uk/kos

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Toasting success with Top 10 results at Kent College

KENT College students and staff are toasting their success with another year of excellent A-level results.

More than 70 per cent of all examination entries were achieved at A*-B grades and all students gained places at their universities of choice, including Oxbridge. Jack Balsdon won a scholarship to Durham University.

Particular congratulations for high levels of academic achievement at A-level go to the following top performers: Jack Balsdon, Annabel Carter, Janet Chau, Annie Chen, Jonathan Choi, Ryan Chiu, Ayla Ghaffarzadehgan, Andrey Krasnov, Echo Li, Katharine Pemberton, Olivia Pemberton, Napat Rungsrithananon, Peter Rynolds, Yuqi Shao, Eugene Sayenko, Justin So, Hannah Stone, Dai Sun, Frank Tai, Oliver Warwick, Daniel Westcott, Gini Yang, Tony Zeng, Alexander Zhexembayev, Joshua Wilson Holliday and Alexandra Withers.

These results follow the outstanding IB results for Kent College's second cohort.

The average score was once again over 37 points, which, when translated into UCAS points, is equivalent to the number of points awarded for four A*s at A-level.

Head girl Elizabeth Baker and Barnaby Lamper scored 39 points and Claudia Jimenez achieved 38 to study archaeology and anthropology at St Hugh's College, Oxford.

The average point score places Kent College in the top 10 schools nationally for IB results for the second year.

Headmaster Dr David Lamper said: "I am delighted with the very high levels of academic achievement shown by the students who took examinations this summer.

"They worked extremely hard while at the same time adding an immense amount to the extra-curricular, musical, dramatic and sporting life of our community. They have been excellent ambassadors of Kent College and they deserve every success.

"I am also delighted for my colleagues who have worked so hard in supporting all of our students. Many congratulations to them all."

Training can be tailored to work for you

BUSINESSES keen to maintain a competitive edge are urged to take advantage of the courses and products offered by Business Services at MidKent College.

From bespoke training and apprenticeships to the college's very own Microsoft Academy and JobShop, MKC Business Services can help improve a firm from top to bottom.

And with the economy poised to bounce back following a lengthy period of decline, there's never been a better time for employers to ensure they stay ahead of the pack.

Based at the college's new higher-education centre at its Maidstone campus, MKC Business Services is a team of education and training experts with years of experience in the field.

The first of four key services offered is its range of bespoke training packages, offering qualifications in a variety of courses including training and leadership and health and safety.

Services manager Jacqui Brown said: "Training can be delivered during the working day, evenings or weekends. We work with you to determine the course content, ensuring it is highly relevant to you and your staff. We'll also align training to match your business culture."

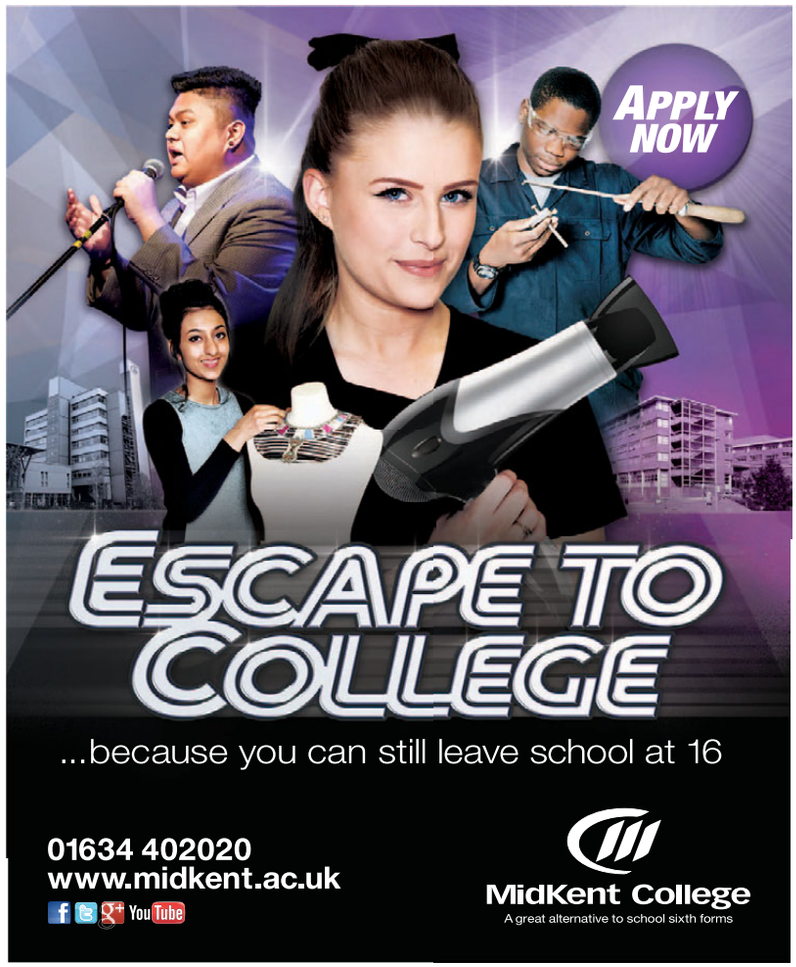
Firms keen to keep up with the pace of technology can take advantage of the Microsoft Academy, which offers fully-accredited technical and Office programs from a dedicated IT suite at the college's Medway campus.

Service number three is the JobShop, which provides recruitment solutions by advertising job vacancies to existing students for free. Only students who fulfil certain criteria are notified of the vacancies, ensuring only the most appropriate candidates are put forward for application.

Finally, Business Services is also responsible for more than 20 apprenticeship programmes at the college, giving employers the support they need to train the skilled workforce of the future.

Apprenticeships are offered in a range of subject areas including customer service, hairdressing, plumbing, vehicle-fitting and lots more. The college also offers the higher apprenticeship in accounting.

Visit www.mkcbusiness.co.uk or phone 01622 624900 for more information.



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Celebrations at Norton Knatchbull as talented students achieve school's best-ever IB results

STUDENTS, staff and parents at Norton Knatchbull School were ready to celebrate after receiving their results for the International Baccalaureate results on Saturday, July 6.

Assistant head-teacher Jamie MacLean said: "At Norton Knatchbull School we offer the IB diploma because we believe it provides an exciting and challenging education and is an excellent preparation for university. Our IB students not only maintain breadth of study but also learn vital skills of communication, analysis, enquiry and organisation."

Susan Farrant, head of sixth form, added: "All IB students study six academic subjects including English, maths, a foreign language, a science, one humanity and an arts subject. Additionally, they complete an extended essay, study theory of knowledge and embark on a range of extra-curricular and charitable activities."

A new record was set by Julian Gray, who gained the full 45 points in the IB diploma. He is looking forward to taking up a place at Oxford University to study Chinese. Julian is one of just 108 students worldwide who has achieved top marks out of more than127,000 students.

Three further students have won places at Cambridge University: Daniel Stanyon will read philosophy, Thomas Hitchcock natural sciences and Charles Barker human, social and political science.

Thomas Hitchcock said: "I chose the IB because I wanted to do a variety of subjects. I liked the feeling of being part of an international community and I also liked the way all the subjects are linked through theory of knowledge and the creativity, action and service element."

Overall, 14 of the school's 20 IB students gained places at Russell Group universities. These include Ian Balfour and Andrew Holden (Exeter), Christopher Batt (Birmingham), Timothy Wiese (Southampton), Sam Gray and Deshan Hewavidana (Warwick), Kieron Cummins and Luke Geeson (Nottingham), Ryan-Sin Maloney (Southampton) and Jack Rowson (Manchester or Birmingham).

Deshan Hewavidana said: "The diversity of subjects presented is really enjoyable and fulfilling. Of course I would recommend the IB diploma programme to other students – it prepares you well for later life."

Head-teacher Susanne Staab said: "We are delighted with our IB results this year, which are the best the school has had since the programme was first introduced at NKS in 2006.

"The average point score was 36.9 (out of 45). This is equivalent to four A* grades at A-level. It is amazing that 70 per cent of the cohort will move on to Russell Group universities."

A-LEVELS PROVE NO MATCH FOR THE DETERMINATION OF CLEVER PUPILS

WE are once again delighted with our A-level results.

Our students achieved 28 per cent A* or As and 58 per cent A*, A or B. Our overall pass rate was 100 per cent. The majority of our students will continue their studies at university and most have already received firm offers of a place. The average point score per student was 897.

There are a number of students whose achievements were exceptional across all A2 subjects they studied and who therefore deserve particular praise: both Matthew Dolman and Amir Habeeb achieved four A*s (biology, chemistry, maths, further maths) and an A (physics);

WELL DONE! From left, back row: Mrs Salt, Amir Habeeb, Matthew Guy, Matthew Dolman and Oliver Hopkinson. From left, front row: Zainali Panjwani, Andrew Tye and Daniel Harrison

Daniel Harrison achieved three A*s (maths, further maths and physics) and an A (chemistry) as well as an A at AS-level (biology); Tomas Goncalves achieved two A*s (biology and maths), one A (chemistry) and one B (French); Matthew Guy achieved two A*s (maths and further maths), an A (physics) and a B at AS-level (chemistry); Oliver Hopkinson achieved two A*s (maths and physics), an A (further maths) and a D (economics); Dayo Ogunsola achieved two A*s (history and maths) and one A (government and politics) as well as an A at AS-level (physics); Jamie Tilt achieved two A*s (biology and chemistry), one A (maths), one B (French) as well as an A at AS-level (physics).

In addition to the above, the following students must be congratulated for gaining an A* in one of the A2 subjects they studied: Duncan Bertram (government and politics); Jonathon Burgoyne (geography); James Higginson (government and politics); Zainali Panjwani (biology); Deepbim Rai (business studies); Harminder Rai (maths); Vishal Sood (maths); Andrew Tye (maths); Mat Waldman (English literature); Andrew Wicks (biology); Samuel Wilson (music); and John Winch (product design).

Many congratulations to all of our Year 13 A level students and a huge thank-you to all members of staff who helped to make these results happen.

THE NORTON KNATCHBULL SCHOOL

Ms S K Staab
Headteacher
The Norton Knatchbull School
Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0QJ
T: 01233 620045
F: 01233 633668
information@nks.kent.sch.uk
www.nks.kent.sch.uk

The Norton Knatchbull School is a popular and highly regarded selective school for boys aged 11-18 which admits a growing number of girls into its Sixth Form. Having proudly served the local community of Ashford in Kent since the 17th century, we combine traditional values with a forward-looking and vibrant learning environment where young people are nurtured to become considerate, confident and well-rounded individuals.

"There are so many extra-curricular activities...I've lost count...all of which are superb." Yr 7 student

We provide an atmosphere in which all our students feel supported and inspired to strive for their personal best. Our approach to academic study is varied, disciplined and fosters a life-long love of learning. We value community and celebrate diversity. As a result, our young people are able to make informed and positive life choices, and are equipped to face the challenges of a fast-changing, competitive and increasingly global environment.

We are proud of our track record of strong examination results, the wealth of our extra-curricular provision and the strength of our careers education, advice and guidance. We benefit from a wide range of facilities which support learning in a variety of disciplines, styles and environments. Our specialisms model innovation and best practice across the school and maintain productive links with local schools and the wider national and international community.

Our students are supported by a team of highly qualified, hard-working and caring teaching and support and a well informed and supportive Governing Body, all of whom are united in their desire to achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

"There is no problem too small - you will always be listened to." Yr 13 student

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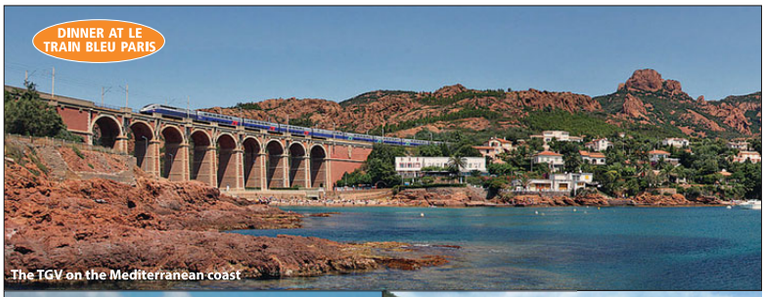
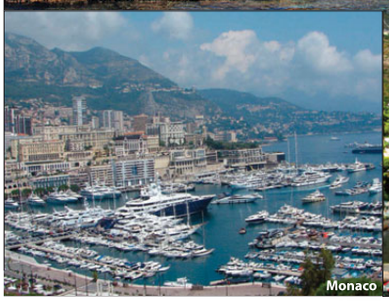
Join us for New Year on board the MPS Lady Anne and enjoy a cracking New Year's Eve party and the festive atmosphere around the medieval town of Koblenz. We'll cruise the Rhine's most romantic waters, learn of the myths surrounding the Lorelei Rock and have the opportunity to taste Cochem's delicious local wine and apple strudel before we set course for our final destination of Cologne.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • Welcome drink, Captain's get together and party night • 4-night full-board cruise on the MPS Lady Anne with hot and cold buffet breakfast, 3-course buffet lunch and set 4-course dinner • Early risers and mid morning tea/coffee • Visits to Andernach, Rudesheim, Koblenz & Cologne • New Years Eve party • Entertainment every night of the cruise • Transfers abroad



The TGV on the Mediterranean coast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23 October, 2013

Our big-little-rail-adventure follows in the footsteps of Michael Portillo's Great Rail Journeys, with a sumptuous dinner at the famous Le Train Blue Restaurant in Paris and a night in the French capital. We then head south to the glamour of the French Riviera and Monaco. The journey on the TGV train includes the alluring scenery of the Cote d'Azur - yacht-filled harbours, beaches, rocky inlets and millionaires' villas. We stay in the chic coastal resort of Beaulieu Sur Mer, near Cap Ferrat and Villefranche, and include a visit to Monaco by the scenic coastal railway - with great views of the coast along the way.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St. Pancras to Beaulieu Sur Mer • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris • Dinner at the Train Bleu in Paris • 3 nights B&B hotel stay in Beaulieu Sur Mer • Return rail tickets Beaulieu Sur Mer to Monaco • Transfers abroad

The Rhine Valley

The MV Virginia

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6 days full board

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25 September, 2013

Come with us on a charming river cruise on the Rhine and Moselle in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Virginia as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) with just one train change en-route. On board ship it is easy to relax and unwind while some of Germany's most historic and romantic scenery slips quietly by. There will be time for your own sightseeing ashore too, as each day the cruise ship will moor at a different "port". Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel to Cologne • 5 nights full-board cruise on the MV Virginia sharing a twin outside cabin - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Cup of coffee/tea each morning and afternoon • Captain's dinner • Live music one evening • Transfers abroad

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The Mersey-beats	£10pp Deposit

Swinging 60s Christmas Party at Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast

3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Drinks

£109pp

Quote MX11-KOS

Friday 15 November 2013

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pakefield, with a great line up of original 60s bands (and tiny bit of the 70s - Loves Grows hit the number 1 spot for Edison Lighthouse 30th Jan 1970) Plus a host of Festive and nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. There's a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

The Fortunes You've got your troubles Here it comes again Storm in a teacup	OVER 40s ONLY
FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night	COMEDY LEGEND Joey Howard
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FSB wants Bank of England to be bold

THE chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses for Kent and Medway has called on the Bank of England to be "bold and imaginative" to boost growth in the economy.

Roger House has spoken out about a recent inflation report announcing that the Bank will provide forward guidance on interest rates linked to employment.

Mr House said: "Forward guidance linked to unemployment is a profound shift in monetary policy for the Bank of England. We welcome this bold and imaginative thinking to secure the recovery.

"In the longer term, we hope it will give investors and firms looking to grow confidence to bring forward work which will in turn help increase employment."

Kent FSB believes that the low interest rate will remain in place to spur on growth.

Mr House said: "For firms in the county to invest, grow and create jobs, they need to access finance. We are pleased to see the evidence that Funding for Lending is helping small businesses access credit at cheaper rates.

"But while the banks have reserves of credit available, around four in 10 firms are still refused their application."

Accountancy firm brings in tax adviser

UK CHARTERED accountancy and business-advisory firm Wilkins Kennedy LLP, based in Ashford, has appointed Rick Schofield as its tax adviser.

A qualified chartered accountant and chartered tax adviser, Schofield joins Wilkins Kennedy from Baker Tilly in Manchester. He has extensive experience in tax advisory and tax planning for medium-sized corporates and substantial partnerships.

Rob Reynolds, regional managing partner at Wilkins Kennedy, said: "This is an exciting time for us as we continue to expand and consolidate our position as one of the leading chartered accountancy firms in the region.

"Rick's market knowledge and tax experience will make him a significant asset to the firm."

Mr Schofield will deliver tax advisory and compliance services to a range of international clients.

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on **01303 817000**, or alternatively email your story to **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

Big push for county to take the lead in wind-farm industry

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

PLANS that would see wind-turbine production concentrated in the county have been backed by inward-investment agency Locate in Kent.

The Government's Offshore Wind Industry Strategy has been welcomed as it points to an opportunity for the county to take a position at the forefront of the green-energy sector.

Kent is already one of six national Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering (COREs) – a Government scheme designed to support business growth from foreign direct investment (FDI) for the offshore wind sector.

The county also received international coverage last month when Prime Minister David Cameron travelled to Margate to open London Array, the world's largest offshore wind farm, 12 miles off the coast of Thanet.

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said: "Kent is well positioned to support and play a leading role in the continuing development of the offshore wind industry.

"Ramsgate played a significant role as the construction base for London Array and continues as home of the operations centre for what is a multi-national organisation that has already been the source of significant FDI for the county.

"Vattenfall also has an O&M base at Ramsgate port to look after the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and a specialist offshore wind-energy recruitment agency has a presence in the town, finding work from apprentices to skilled engineers."

In the north of the county, planning permission was granted for a 70-hectare site hosting a turbine manufacture and assembly plant at the Port of Sheerness, with the potential to create up to 2,000 new jobs, but developer Vestas pulled out of the scheme.

ALL SMILES: Paul Wookey and Peter Symons

Mr Wookey said: "The potential for the county's manufacturers to contribute to the supply chain is being strengthened by current project work to increase understanding and awareness of business capability in Kent.

"In addition, the new GROW funding, coupled with the existing Expansion East Kent and TIGER RGF funds, can only serve to strengthen Kent's position and gives us a powerful offering for companies from outside the county looking to invest in the offshore wind sector."

The Government report indicates strong support for the offshore wind industry to be based in the UK. It has said it is key to "significantly increase levels of inward investment to the UK offshore wind supply chain".

Commenting on the strategy, Michael Fallon, business and energy minister and Sevenoaks MP, said: "Step by step we are working with industry to maximise the potential of this important industry. We are determined to make sure more of the contracts, jobs and economic benefit come to our shores and that we export more to overseas markets."

The director of business development at Locate in Kent, Peter Symons, welcomed the report. He said: "The publication of the Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy is another important and positive step in progressing the establishment of an offshore wind industry in the UK.

"Locate in Kent continues to promote the Kent CORE and the local benefits available to any company from the industry seeking to invest in Kent and Medway."

The Kent CORE incorporates the established operations and maintenance centres at Ramsgate and Whitstable, as well as 303 hectares in Medway, which includes two deepwater ports at Sheerness and London Thamesport.

Monthly meetings highlight online potential of social media

A SEMINAR focusing on modern techniques of driving customers to your online business is gaining popularity in the county.

The ZC Social Media Academy invited business-owners to come to group meetings once a month so they can brush up on their social-media skills.

The sessions are organised by the academy's website guru Zoe Cairns, who talks to members of the Kent online commerce community about how to use sites like Twitter and Facebook to their advantage.

The latest session, early this month, welcomed representatives from 84 companies – just a year after the conferences were put in place.

Mrs Cairns said: "It's a monthly meeting where you can come along and learn the cutting-edge social-media and digital strategies and how to use them in your business effectively. The use of social-media marketing by businesses is growing day by day."

The three-hour sessions include guest speakers as well as what businesses should be posting on social-media sites.

Mrs Cairns designs the sessions so that even the ultra-modern sites such as Vine and Klout are covered in the social-media briefings.

She said: "A lot of businesses still do not understand social media's power and importance, but many are seeing its potential while still using many offline marketing methods such as networking, Yellow Pages, Thomson Directories and leaflet-dropping."

Interactive sessions guide visitors on new marketing strategies as well as offer question-and-answer sessions with networking experts.

There are also chances for new businesses to have their websites analysed by industry experts.

Mrs Cairns said: "We will concentrate on the most-used social-media platforms – YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn – to generate maximum exposure for your brand and increase its awareness with your target market and look to improve your online presence."

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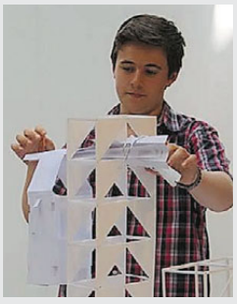
Youngsters get a glimpse into the creative world at summer session



WORKSHOP: Architecture

HUNDREDS of young people have had a taste of what it would be like to follow in the footsteps of some of the world's greatest creatives.

The University of the Creative Arts, which has campuses in Rochester, Maidstone and Canterbury and boasts graduates Karen Millen, Tracey Emin and Zandra Rhodes, held a creative summer programme.

More than 300 young people aged 15-18 took part in a series of taster sessions.

Organiser Loreta Jarvis said: "Our workshops are always very hands-on and allow the students to get hands-on with our creative activities but also have a finished item to take home and be proud of, whether it's a short film, a new fashion design or a sculpture."

Students receive university-style lessons with some of UCA's expert lecturers.

F1 fans get boost with new motorsport course

FORMULA 1 fanatics and racing fans are being invited to sign up for a fast-paced course in motorsport at MidKent College.

The new level 2 diploma in vehicle technology begins at the Maidstone campus next month.

Those who excel could end up working in the pits and garages of some of the world's biggest F1 teams.

Phone the course information line on 01634 402020 or visit www.midkent.ac.uk.

Promising film-makers invited to enter awards

ASPIRING young film-makers are being urged to get behind the camera and get involved in the Kent Film Awards.

Individuals, organisations or groups of friends aged 10-21 years can enter.

Films can be in any genre and shot on a mobile phone or video camera but must be between five and 10 minutes long.

Prizes include a trip to either Pinewood Studios or Shepperton Studios.

See www.kentfilmawards.org.uk.

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Ensuring Sucessful Futures

PRO-CHANCELLOR: Stephen Howlett has taken on the role at the University of Greenwich

New senior university role can inspire others

A GRADUATE of the University of Greenwich has become the first in the university's history to take on the senior position of pro-chancellor.

Stephen Howlett has also been granted the role of chair of the university court.

In what is likely to serve as inspiration to other students, he is the first graduate of the university to hold these two posts.

On completing his studies, Mr Howlett, who lives in the Greenwich area, joined the housing sector – on the advice of the university's careers service – and rose through the ranks to be appointed chief executive of Peabody, one of London's largest charitable housing associations, in 2004.

As pro-chancellor, he will preside over the university's graduation ceremonies and as chair of court will lead the main governing and decision-making body of the university.

"It is a privilege and a great honour to be asked to serve in this way," he said.

"I am particularly proud to be the first graduate of the university to assume chairmanship of the court.

"George Peabody said education is 'a debt due from present to future generations' and I hope to play my part in settling that debt to students at this great university during my tenure."

Mr Howlett said: "I am passionate about education and look forward to continuing the university's focus on academic excellence and further securing its place as one of London's leading universities."

Mr Howlett has an interest in education and skills and is a board member of Asset Skills, the sector skills council for housing, cleaning and facilities management.

He is also a member of the Government's Communities and Local Government's Housing Sounding Board – the residential committee of the British Property Federation – and one of the Mayor of London Boris Johnson's leaders for London on sustainability.

Professor David Maguire, vice-chancellor, welcomed the appointment.

"The pro-chancellor has an important part to play in university life and I am delighted the court has chosen such an able and experienced businessman for the role," he said.

"Stephen has already made a valuable contribution to the university as a court member, including serving as its vice-chair.

"I look forward to working with him even more closely in the future as we seek to achieve Greenwich's ambitious new strategy, which is underpinned by excellence in all that we do."

Mr Howlett, who also served as vice-chair of Canterbury College, remains Peabody's chief executive; he was appointed to the board in 2011.

His rise to success is likely to inspire others to try to follow in his footsteps.

Visit http://www2.gre.ac.uk/ to find out more about the University of Greenwich and the study opportunities available.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Port to boost interest in sea activities

A SPECIAL open day is being held in Dover for aspiring mariners, industry experts and the community as part of the Port of Dover's commitment to increasing interest in water-based activities.

From 10am-4pm on Saturday, August 31, at Dover Marina, people will have the chance to try their hand at sailing and yachting, watch motorboat displays, explore new and used-boat sales, meet cadets and the coastguard and watch the Port of Dover RIB demonstrations.

Tim Waggott, chief executive of the Port of Dover, said: "This free event is the first of its kind and brings together the local sailing community with industry experts as part of the port's commitment to increase interest in water-based activities at Dover.

"We look forward to welcoming new and existing customers to our top award-winning marina and to build on what is already an active, vibrant and valued part of the port and wider Dover community."

The event is being held in collaboration with the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club and forms part of the Port of Dover's participation in the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) Active Marina Programme.

Service offers funding and advice to improve efficiency and expand

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

TWO product manufacturers from Kent have praised a Government-funded scheme that has helped them to streamline and grow their businesses.

Jewellery-maker Sian Bostwick and cake-decorating entrepreneur Lesley Bassett have both successfully used the efficiency initiative Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS).

The MAS scheme is designed to help manufacturers simplify their processes, reduce waste and become more energy-efficient.

MAS, which is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, was launched in 2002 and provides support for SMEs, offering many streamlining services for free.

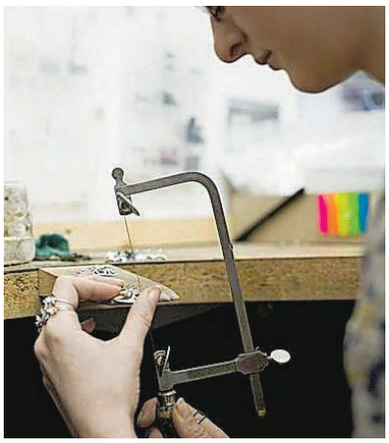
Award-winning designer Bostwick has reduced the production time on her range dramatically as a result of buying new tools part-funded by MAS.

She said: "Following a chance meeting with MAS at a Kent exhibition, I have transformed the way my jewellery is produced.

"A workshop review enabled MAS to provide 50 per cent of the funding required to buy the necessary tools to take production time of my standard jewellery range from three days to two hours."

Bostwick hand-crafts her jewellery at a workshop in Chatham with often painstaking detail.

She said: "This is truly a significant achievement which has improved productivity levels and shortened lead times while providing additional time to concentrate on expanding the business and focus on marketing activities.



SUPPORT: Sian Bostick in her studio, above, and Lesley Bassett, below left

"MAS also introduced me to UKTI, which has enabled me to begin early discussions regarding the process of taking my products abroad."

Advisers at MAS are able to offer their extensive experience of both hands-on shop-floor working and management skills to help manufacturers ensure that their business is run in the most efficient way possible.

Lesley Bassett, founder of Icinghouse, has taken one of her cake-decorating products to market with the help of MAS funding using "their industry contacts and design and manufacturing expertise".

Mrs Bassett, from Rochester, said: "As a former wedding-cake-maker, I have extensive industry knowledge within this area. However, when I started out designing cake-decorating products I lacked the necessary funding, links and connections to take an initial concept through its many design, production and approval stages required before becoming a reality.

"With the help of MAS, I have taken my Press-Ice range of impression tools to market, which is just fantastic."

MAS is now working with several thousand SME manufacturing companies to share knowledge and improve productivity.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Service veteran skills used in jobs scheme

A NEW social enterprise aimed at former service men and women will help bring empty homes back into use and help vulnerable tenants with household maintenance.

Maidstone's local armed-forces community covenant steering group has won £31,000 towards the Heroes At Hand skills and employment scheme aimed at bringing former service personnel back into work.

The project employs veterans to carry out refurbishment and maintenance work in the borough.

Maidstone council leader Chris Garland said: "This pilot model will, where possible, bring empty properties back into use and ensure there is increased suitable accommodation for vulnerable veterans as well as create more opportunities for employment and community support for those who have served their country and are trying hard to build a new life after service.

"With many soldiers facing redundancy, some are looking for jobs now, and others in the next 12 to 24 months – these projects will support existing service personnel and their families and those leaving or being made redundant from the services."

Old flats replaced by affordable housing

A BLOCK of 44 flats in Rusthall near Tunbridge Wells has been demolished to make way for a £5 million scheme that will bring affordable housing to the area.

The 1970s flats at Cranwell Road didn't meet modern standards for heating and insulation and were hard to let. They will be replaced by 40 modern homes, 11 of which will be for shared ownership.

The new homes will be energy-efficient and each house will have its own front and back gardens and off-road parking.

Plastics firm to manufacture its own workers with apprenticeship scheme

A COMPANY that specialises in moulding and machining for aerospace and defence projects is increasing its workforce by 10 per cent through recruiting apprentices.

MEP Ltd, which recently moved into a new 12,500 sq ft factory on the Forstal Estate in Aylesford, is to boost its workforce of 60 with six home-grown recruits.

The company has worked with skills body Semta to take on the apprentices – four of whom have just started, with a fifth to begin in August when he finishes school.

It is also in the process of recruiting a graduate to join the quality-assurance team and has committed to recruiting at least one apprentice a year from now on.

The company, which was started by Terry Hart in his garage in 1972, has grown its turnover to £3 million per year and Terry's son Phil is now the managing director.

LEARN: Working to the future

He said: "I realised if I didn't start an apprenticeship programme I would have no one else to blame. We were struggling to find the skills we needed, so I decided we had to grow our own if we were to fuel growth in the business."

Semta organised an open day at the factory, putting 17 candidates through a range of aptitude tests, and will provide support.

MEP Ltd specialises in creating plastics and metal for customers across the world.

Mr Hart said: "If it had not been for Semta we would not have gone as far as we have – they have helped us accelerate our apprenticeship programme, allowing us to focus on improving our performance, which will in turn improve our customers' performance."

Sarah Sillars OBE is chief executive of Semta and believes MEP Ltd is a good example of how apprentices can improve a business.

She said: "An apprentice will soon be making a significant contribution to the company. The research shows they are likely to become a valued, loyal employee, making money and providing skills.

"Employers are struggling to get the people they need and there has never been a better time to meet the challenges head on – as MEP Ltd has done."

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Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NISSAN NOTE

PREVIEW

Price: from £11,900
Driving appeal: Not yest driven
Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Honda Jazz

Take note of the new Note

NISSAN'S original Note was something of a game-changer when it arrived in 2006.

As such, it was the first of several new Nissans to straddle various motor-market sectors, the later Qashqai being even more notable for this.

The Note's versatility revolved around its ability to be a small MPV such as the Vauxhall Meriva but also function much like a family hatchback or estate with the bonus of a highly practical shape. Clever touches like a double-sided and adjustable boot floor added to its appeal for hard-pressed families.

However, such brilliant functionality made it hard to be a looker, a point clearly noted for the second-generation car, due in showrooms for October.

Again, Nissan stylists have avoided being drawn into the high-riding compact MPV look – if you want the high driving position, then check out the marque's Qashqai and Juke crossovers – but they have created a sleeker-looking wrap for the Note's practical packaging.

Nissan says the car is a complete redesign of the original, aimed especially at British and European markets. And its UK appeal will be boosted by aggressive pricing from £11,900 and from being built at Nissan's highly successful Sunderland plant – one of the most productive in the Japanese marque's empire.

The Note alone has created 2,000 new jobs there and within the UK supplier network.

Nissan is also making much of the car's Safety Shield technologies: three systems linked to a rear camera with its own 'wash and blow dry' facility to keep the lens clean.

This is a reasonably-priced £400 option on higher-spec models and delivers Blind Spot Warning and Lane Departure Warning – the latter activated if the car is drifting out of position without indicating, as in a 'sleepy driver' situation – plus Moving Object Detection, alerting the reversing driver if, for instance, a child has wandered unseen into a dangerous situation.

Three engines are available from launch and all fitted with fuel-and-emissions-saving stop/start systems as standard: a 79bhp 1.2-litre three-cylinder petrol, a 97bhp 1.2-litre DIG-S supercharged petrol – the engine that put some pep into Nissan's Micra supermini – and the 89bhp 1.5-litre dCi turbodiesel.

A CVT (continuously variable transmission) auto box is available on the DIG-S engine.

Entry-level Visia spec comes with front electric windows, remote central locking and cruise-control, but you will need to trade up to Acenta trim (from £13,250) to get alloys, air-con, Bluetooth and a sliding rear seat bench, while the flagship Tekna line-up (from £15,950) brings part-leather seats and a leather steering wheel plus the Safety Shield package as standard.

For those who want more of a driver's car, the supercharged DIG-S versions at all levels come with their own suspension and steering set-up, along with 16-inch alloys.

CHANGING TIMES: Nissan's Note has been completely redesigned by the car-maker ready for its second-generation release due out in October

DON'T LIKE

... the limited engine choice, but it's likely to be augmented later by more powerful options. For now, the DIG-S and 1.5 diesel are the best options.

NOT SURE

... Nissan stylists have quite overcome the car's need for internal practicality, but this is a much better-looking car than the original Note.

REALLY LIKE

... the new Note's value-for-money pitch. This is also a versatile car for post-recession Britain that has created much-needed jobs and confidence.

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Doc & Option fee	59 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	Borrowing Rate	
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13 PLATE Vauxhall Corsa **Energy 3dr**

Delivery Miles

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Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	1 Initial Payment	Interest Charges
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Doc & Option fee	59 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	Borrowing Rate	Representative
£298	£169.79	£10485.80	1.99%	5.1%APR

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Renault to 'Captur' new sales

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT might look ordinary against the stunning SUV-style Captur coupé concept that Renault bandied about in 2011, but the production Captur still 'captures' the eye.

Along with the latest Clio, it also restores lustre to the self-styled Creator of Automobiles' reputation for design flair after duds like the third-generation Laguna family model and Modus mini-MPV, both no longer sold in the UK.

Their departure was part of an ignominious range-pruning last year for the French marque, which seemed to take its eye of the ball while pushing its new electric vehicles, also with questionable success, although the more affordable Zoe supermini could be a big success for the brand.

But the Captur is a return to form for its conventionally-powered cars and should sell well despite fierce competition in the burgeoning compact SUV/crossover sector, where it arrived this year at the same time as Peugeot's rival 2008, which it upstages in the looks department.

It's curious that two such cars should arrive simultaneously from French marques, when the SUV look seemed to have passed France by.

Still, the French have the taste for it now and the Captur doesn't disappoint, with its ultra-modern nose and jacked-up appearance, enhanced by exaggerated side sills that Renault designers have also used well on the latest Clio.

Renault hopes it will become its number-two best-seller behind the Clio and calls the car an 'urban crossover', making sister brand Nissan's pug-ugly Juke a key rival.

Part of Renault's confidence surely comes not only from its good looks but also from being the first car of its type that justifiably encourages owners to customise it.

With the Captur's contrasting roof option, there are 24 colour combinations including really vibrant colours that can also be teamed with equally eye-catching interiors – buyers of all ages can fall for this car. Family buyers will particularly like a £100 optional feature: seat covers that can be unzipped and washed or even replaced by or swapped with another set.

Despite wide-set looks and above-average ground clearance, the Captur is also a compact car – it is based on and has a footprint only slightly larger than the new Clio.

The ability to pilot it around car parks easily is then enhanced by light steering and a loftier driving position from within an airy cabin featuring clever storage options.

Sliding rear seats also allow boot space/rear legroom to be balanced according to need – a more practical demonstration of the car's 'Live the life you want to live' sales pitch.

The boot itself, while not massive with the rear seat pushed back fully, does have a double-sided false floor – one side carpeted, and the other wipe-clean for muddy boots and other wet-weather stowage – and conceals further space below.

Out on the road the Captur has a typically French ability to glide comfortably, except for occasional crashes on an equally typical British rural lane ravaged by winter.

Surprisingly, though, for a higher-riding and softly-sprung vehicle, the Captur does not lean extravagantly on the bends – no doubt helped by the weight-saving techniques used for the car.

Three engines are offered: two turbocharged petrol units of 89 and 119bhp and the 89bhp 1.5-litre turbodiesel tested here. All have sufficient clout for the deceptively light Captur and feature stop-start plus switchable eco-mode fuel-and-emissions-saving technology. The diesel has even better eco credentials: CO_2 emissions of just 95g/km exempt it from road tax, while its official combined mpg is an impressive 76.4.

RETURNING TO FORM: Renault's new Captur should prove a fillip to the French car-maker and be serious competition to rivals in the SUV sector, with its good looks and the opportutnity to mix and match colours

RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE MEDIA NAV DCI 90 DIESEL: PRICE £16,395

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Image:	★★★★★
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Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Best rival:	Peugeot 2008

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i10 given big improvements

HYUNDAI has unveiled its next-generation i10 – the five-door city car that gave the Korean marque its volume breakthrough in the UK, regularly appearing in the UK sales top 10 during its early days.

The new car is longer, lower, wider and better-looking than its more functional predecessor and, Hyundai says, offers the refinement of a bigger car.

Dacia offering four for '63

FOUR new Dacias will attract budget-conscious shoppers seeking a new '63-plate car after confirmation the Logan MCV (maximum capacity vehicle) is joining the line-up.

Priced from £6,995, it reiterates a bargain pitch from Renault's Romanian arm, already made by the Sandero supermini (from £5,995), Sandero Stepway supermini/SUV (from £7,995) and Duster SUV (from £8,995).

Civic Tourer a class addition

HONDA'S new British-built Civic Tourer (estate) makes its public debut at the 2013 Frankfurt Motor Show next month alongside the refreshed Civic hatchback.

Honda says the elegant Tourer offers class-leading interior space. It also has 'Buy British' appeal, joining the Jazz supermini/MPV, CR-V SUV and Civic hatchback in being built at Honda's Swindon plant.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Captur range are: Urban 42.8 (6.6)–67.26 (3.7); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–83.1 (3.4); Combined 52.31 (5.4)–76.4(3.7). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 125–96g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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2013 13 MICRA 1.2 ACENTA CONNECT DELIVERY MILEAGE, SAT NAV, AIR CON, UNIVERSAL SILVER	£12,330	£8,695
2013 13 MICRA 1.2 ACENTA CONNECT DELIVERY MILEAGE, SAT NAV, AIR CON, SAPHIRE BLACK	£12,330	£8,995

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2010 60 JUKE 1.6 TEKNA SAT NAV, REAR PARK CAMERA, CLIMATE AIR CON, FULL BLACK LEATHER, FORCE RED, 13815 MILES		£12,795
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2010 10 QASHQAI 1.5 DCI TEKNA 18" ALLOYS, BOSE AUDIO, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, GLASS ROOF, SAT NAV, BLUETOOTH, BLACK METALLIC, 35273 MILES		£13,495
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2010 10 QASHQAI+2 2.0 CVT 4WD N-TEC AUTO, 4 WHEEL DRIVE, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, CAYMAN BLUE, 7 SEATS, ROOF RAILS 30,852 NILES		£15,995
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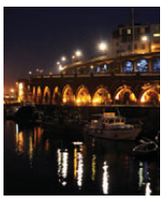

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0232/2013 - Proposed development at Rodmersham Primary School, Rodmersham Green, Rodmersham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 0PS

Rodmersham Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed cabin for ancillary use as teaching/activity room. The proposed development is on the edge of the Rodmersham Green Conservation Area and could affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development could also affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

KCC/CA/0244/2013 - Proposed development at Herne Junior School, School Lane, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7AL

Governors of Herne Junior School are applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for replacement of perimeter fencing to playing fields with 1.8m high weld mesh panel fencing and gates. The proposed development is within the Herne Conservation Area and could affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development is also near a public right of way.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 18 August 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Application for the grant of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

555 Pizza 72 Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2QD

Notice is hereby given that 555 Pizza Co Ltd of the above address has applied to Canterbury City Council for the grant of the a premises licence provide late night refreshment between the hours of 23:00 and 05:00 hours Monday to Sunday at the above premises. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

Monday 2nd September 2013

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD,
16 HAWTHORN ROAD, ASHFORD TN23 3LT

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for Premises Licence

An application has been validated for the premises, Tonbridge Brewery Ltd of Unit 19 Branbridges Industrial Estate, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge Kent, TN12 5HF on the date of: 14th August 2013. Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening for the supply of alcohol: Every day from 08:00 to 23:30 hours. Opening hours every day from 08:00 to 23.45

Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 876368. Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: Ref: 13/00854/PREM Premises Licence, Licensing Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Kill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ or by email to licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk by **10th September 2013**

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Amelia Estates Limited 28-32 Gabriels Hill, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JG has applied to the Licensing Partnership PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP on 9 August 2013 for the grant of a Premises Licence to use the premises at 91 and 92 High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XT for the purposes of selling intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises as well as providing hot and cold food and snacks and non-alcoholic drinks together with provision of the following other licensable activities the provision of films, provision of indoor sporting events, provision of boxing or wrestling entertainments, provision of recorded music and the licensable activities are to be undertaken between the hours of 10am and 1am Monday Sunday inclusive without seasonal variation.
Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004
Any person wishing to make representations about this application should make them in writing on or before 5 September 2013.
Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP
licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk
http:pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing/
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Gullands, 16 Mill Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6XT
Solicitors on behalf of the applicant
Ref:108/82544.2

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

CHARING HEATH ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to the underground phone cable network to provide a new customer service, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Charing Heath Road as follows.

Charing Heath Road, Broadway, Charing will be closed between the junctions with Pluckley Road and Hook Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 19 August 2013 for up to 5 days between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Pluckley Road, A20 Maidstone Road and Hook Lane.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER SEPTEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, as defined below.

Bridge Street will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing, with no direct access between the A28 and Wye.

Closures are planned as follows

Sunday 8 September 2013 at 00:05 hours through until Monday 9 September at 04:00 hours

Sunday 6 October 2013 at 00:05 hours through until Monday 7 October at 04:00 hours

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

BLACKBURN ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Blackburn Road, Herne Bay.

Blackburn Road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Greenhill Road.

The closure is planned to commence from 19 August 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative routes are via

Westbound via Greenhill Road, Granville Drive and Clare Drive

Eastbound via Clare Drive, Westlands Road and Greenhill Road

BRAMLING ROAD, ADISHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a detailed examination of the railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Bramling Road, Adisham.

The section of Bramling Road to be closed is between Adisham Downs Road / Pond Hill and Bramling Road, with the closure up to 20 metres either side of the railway bridge.

The closure is planned to commence from 22 August 2013 at 22:00 hours through until 23 August at 06:00 hours.

The alternative route is via Bramling Road, Bossington Road and Pond Hill.

HOLLOW LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Hollow Lane, Canterbury.

Hollow Lane will be closed between the junctions with Homersham and New House Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 21 August 2013 for up to 2 weeks (excluding Sundays and Bank Holiday).

The alternative route is via Homersham, A28 Wincheap, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Old Dover Road, B2068 Nackington Road and Merton Lane.

B2205 ST JOHN'S ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2205 St John's Road, Whitstable.

St John's Road will be closed between the junctions with Kite Farm and Herne Bay Road/Chestfield Road, with no through access between Whitstable and Herne Bay using this route.

Closures are planned for 20 August to 23 August 2013 inclusive and 27 & 28 August (i.e. excluding the weekend and Bank Holiday Monday), between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route for low vehicles is via B2205 Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, Chestfield Road and St John's Road.

For all vehicles over 13' 3" (4.0 M), the alternative route is via B2205 Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Borstal Hill, Canterbury Road, Oxford Street, High Street, Harbour Street, Tower Parade, Tankerton Road, Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road and St John's Road.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

CRAYLANDS LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed Bridge examination, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Craylands Lane, Swanscombe outside of the railway bridge on or after 19th August 2013 for up to 1 day between the hours of 22.00 and 06.00am or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Craylands Lane, London Road, High Street, Stanhope Road ,Swanscombe Street, Manor Road, Milton Street and Crayland Lane and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

ALLENBY AVENUE, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway and carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Allenby Avenue, Deal.

Allenby Avenue, Deal will be closed for its entire length.

The closure is planned to commence from 2 September 2013 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed weekdays only, and due to the nature of the works being carried out, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside working times. The road will be re-opened at weekends.

The alternative route is via Mill Road and Park Avenue.

MEGGETT LANE, ALKHAM, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow maintenance works to be carried out to a culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Meggett Lane, Alkham, Dover.

Meggett Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the culvert over the stream, with access from either direction up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from Monday 2 September 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Alkham Valley Road and Hogbrook Hill Lane.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

CHURCH STREET, TESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street, Teston, on or after 2 September 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A26 Tonbridge Road to The Street.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road and The Street.

MANGRAVET AVENUE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new electric cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mangravet Avenue, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from 12 to 22.

The alternative route is via A274 Sutton Road, Grove Road, Oak Tree Avenue.

SMITH'S HILL, WEST FARLEIGH/YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of overhead cabling works for BT Openreach, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Smith's Hill, West Farleigh/ Yalding, on or after 2 September 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Hunt Street to Shingle Barn Road.

The alternative route is via Ewell Lane, B2163 Upper Hunton Hill, Hunton Hill, West Street, Vicarage Road, Kenward Road, Yalding Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Maidstone, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **21st August 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE

EAST SUTTON ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE – WHOLE LENGTH 21ST AUGUST 2013

Alternative route via Pleasure House Lane, Chartway Street, Work House Lane

CHAIN GATE ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA – whole length **21st August to 22nd August 2013**

Alternative route via Headcorn Road, Church Road, Boughton Lane

HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY – whole length **25th August 2013**

Alternative route via Sutton Road, Leeds Road, Heath Road

WIERTON ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA – whole length **27th August 2013 to 28th August 2013**

Alternative route via East Hall Hill, Hermitage Lane, Lucks Lane, Chart Hill Road, Amber Lane, Lucks Lane

BRISHING ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA – whole length **27th August 2013 to 30th August 2013**

Alternative route via Heath Road, Brishing Lane

WORKHOUSE LANE, EAST SUTTON – whole length **2nd September 2013 for 10 working days**

Alternative route via Chartway Street, Pleasure House Lane, East Sutton Road

LINDRIDGE ROAD, STAPLEHURST – whole length **9th September 2013 for 10 working days**

Alternative route via Marden Road, Clapper Lane

WHITE HILL ROAD, DETLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling for a new connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Hill Road, Detling, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Magpie Farm Cottages to The Fold.

The alternative route is via Matts Hill Road, Matts Hill, Yaugher Lane, Magpie Lane, Cox Street.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

CLEMENT STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential electrical ground work t be carried out bu UK Power Networks, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clement Street,Swanley on or after 2nd September 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 2 Sutton Cottages, Clements Street.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Goss Hill, B258,Shirehall Road, A225,Arnolds Lane and Clements Street

HOW GREEN LANE, HEVER, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on How Green Lane, Hever, Sevenoaks, on or after 2nd September 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Hever Road to Clinton Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the south, the diversion route is east along Hever Road then North along B2027 Chequers Hill, East along B2027 Clinton Lane and north along B2027 Clinton Lane Approaching from the East the diversion is the same but in reverse.

VARIOUS ROADS, PENSHURST SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new water meter, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads, Penshurst Sevenoaks as described in the Schedule and the alternative routes are as described in that Schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of the closure.

The Order will be come into operation on 20th August 2013 and will be valid for a period of up to 18 months.

SCHEDULE

Road Name:	Penshurst Road, Poundsbridge (Penshurst)
Extent:	from the junction of Poundsbridge Hill to outside Tudor Cottage
Dates:	20th August 2013 – 13th September 2013
Diversion:	Penshurst Road, Barden Road, Penshurst Road (B2176), Poundsbridge Lane and vice versa
Road Name:	Poundsbridge Hill, Poundsbridge (Penshurst)
Extent:	between the junction of Penshurst Road and Coopers Lane
Dates:	16th September 2013 – 4th October 2013
Diversion:	Penshurst Road, Langton Road, Speldhurst Road, Leggs Lane, Poundsbridge Hill and vice versa
Road Name:	Coopers Lane, Poundsbridge (Penshurst)
Extent:	from junction of Penshurst Road to outside Colnbrook Cottages
Dates:	7th October 2013 to 15th October 2013
Diversion:	Poundsbridge Hill and vice versa

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL SHEPWAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER AUGUST 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on certain roads in the rural part of the Shepway area.

The roads affected, and alternative routes are shown below.

These works are planned to be completed in the week commencing 19 August 2013, with the exact start dates and timescales to be notified to local residents and signposted on site

Roads will be closed for up to 2 days each, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours.

SANDY LANE, STELLING MINNIS closed for its entire length

The alternative route is via Wheelbarrow Town, High Minnis and Mockbeggar

MOCKBEGGAR, RHODES MINNIS closed for its entire length

The alternative route is via B2068 Stone Street, Green Lane and The Minnis

Only one of the above roads will be closed any one time, starting with Sandy Lane.

BROOK LANE, SELLINDGE closed for its entire length

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*; every effort will be made to allow access when this is safe

The closures are planned to commence from 19 August 2013 for a total period of up to 1 week

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

CHAPEL PLACE LANE, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-position a lighting column, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Chapel Place Lane, Ramsgate.

Chapel Place Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Chapel Place, with no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from 4 September 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Chapel Place.

A256 HENGIST WAY, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable bridge remedial repairs and other maintenance to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A256 Hengist Way, Ramsgate.

A256 Hengist Way, Ramsgate will be closed between Sevenscore Roundabout and Lord of the Manor Roundabout.

The closures are planned to commence from Monday 2 September 2013 for up to 5 nights, and Monday 9 September for up to 5 nights, between 19:00hours through until 07:00 hours each night.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via A256 Richborough Way and Sandwich Road *Westbound* via Canterbury Road West and A256 Hengist Way

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

ALLENS LANE, PLAXTOL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of improvements to the drainage system, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Allens Lane, Plaxtol, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Brook Lane to outside Allen's Farm.

The alternative route is via Brook Lane, Long Mill Lane.

BARMING ROAD/NORTH POLE ROAD, WATERINGBURY/TESTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install new telegraph poles and cabling for a new BT connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Barming Road/North Pole Road, Wateringbury/Teston, on or after 2 September 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wateringbury Road to outside Keeper's Cottage.

The alternative route is via Wateringbury Road, Red Hill, A26 Tonbridge Road, North Street.

CHURCH LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 4 Pine Cottages.

The alternative route is via School Lane, The Street.

COMMON ROAD, HADLOW
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Common Road, Hadlow, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Matthews Road to Carpenters Lane.

The alternative route is via A26 Maidstone Road, Carpenters Lane.

PLATT HOUSE LANE, STANSTEAD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT Openreach cabling for a new connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Platt House Lane, Stanstead, on or after 19 August 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wrotham Hill Road to Vigo Road.

The alternative route is via Vigo Road, A227 Gravesend Road, Fairseat Lane.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

A264 CHURCH ROAD AND CASTLE ROAD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to locate a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A264 Church Road and Castle Road, on or after24 August 2013 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed. A264 Church Road.

A264 Church Road will be closed between A264 Mount Ephraim and A26 London Road and Castle Road between A264 Mount Ephraim and A264 Church Road.

The alternative route is via A264 Mount Ephraim, Bishop's Down, Major Yorks Road, A26 London Road.

HIGHWAYS – WEST KENT AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VALE ROAD, NORTHFLEET)
(PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING) NOTICE 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 66 of the Highways Act 1980, intends to implement a new zebra crossing at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the proposed new zebra crossing facility may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD. It may also be viewed online at: www.kent.gov.uk/khsconsult under 'Current consultations'.

To comment on the proposals please contact Mr. Paul Thrower, Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD; or via email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on Wednesday 4th September 2013.

SCHEDULE

Type of facility	Location
New zebra crossing.	Vale Road, south of the junction with Colyer Road, Northfleet.

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (RESURFACING)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway Surface Dressing works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **29th July 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 7 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

DARTFORD

B260 MAIN ROAD, LONGFIELD–Closed between Station Road and St Mary's Way **5th August 2013 to 12th August 2013** – 7.00pm until 05.00am (excluding weekends) Diversion will be B260 Main Road, B260 Green Street Green Road, Trolling Down Hill, A296 Princes Road, A2 Watling Street and New Barn Road

A225 MAIN ROAD, SUTTON-AT-HONE–Closed between Gravel Road and Devon Road **9th August 2013 to 13th August 2013** – 7.00pm until 02.00am (excluding weekends) Diversion will be via A225 Dartford Road, A20 London Road, B2173 London Road, B258 Swanley Lane, B258 Barn End Lane, B258 Church Hill and A225 Hawley Road

A206 CROSSWAYS BOULEVARD, DARTFORD–Closed – Eastbound carriageway between Galleons Boulevard Roundabout and Charles Street Roundabout **13th September 2013 to 25th September 2013** – 9.00pm until 5.00am (excluding weekends) Diversion will be via A206 Crossways Boulevard, B3228 Cotton Lane, A226 London Road and A206 Crossways Boulevard

A296 PRINCES ROAD (JUNCTION 1B), DARTFORD–Phase 1 – Princes Road eastbound approach to Junction 1B, closed between A296 Park Road to Junction 1B gyratory. Diversion will be via A296 Park Road, A226 The Brent, B2500 Watling Street and A296 Princes Road.

Phase 2 – Princes Road westbound approach to Junction 1B, closed between Gore Road to Junction 1B gyratory. Diversion will be via B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Brent, A296 Park Road and A296 Princes Road.

Closures: 16th September 2013 to 25th September 2013 – 9.00pm until 05.00am (excluding weekends)

A296 PRINCES ROAD (EASTBOUND ONLY), DARTFORD – Closed eastbound only between Junction 1B gyratory and Gore Road **16th September 2013 to 19th September 2013** – 9.00pm until 5.00amDiversion will be via B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Brent, A296 Park Road and A296 Princes Road. (to be carried out in the middle of the Junction 1B works above)

OAKFIELD LANE, DARTFORD –Closed between Leyton Cross Roundabout and Heath Lane Roundabout **7th October 2013 to 11th October 2013** – 9.00pm until 5.00am Diversion will be via Oakfield Lane, A225 Lowfield Street, B2174 Princes Road, A2018 Shepherds Lane, A2018 Old Bexley Lane

A2018 OLD BEXLEY LANE, DARTFORD–Closed–Oakfield Lane eastbound approach to Dartford Heath junction **15th October 2013** – 8.00pm until 5.00am Diversion will be via Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane, B2174 Princes Road and A2018 Shepherds Lane.

GRAVESHAM

B261 OLD ROAD EAST, GRAVESEND–Closed between Valley Drive and Brown Road **29th July 2013 to 3rd August 2013** – 7.00pm until 02.00am Diversion will be via A226 Rochester Road, A226 Milton Road, Parrock Street and B261 Old Road East

A226 EAST MILTON ROAD, GRAVESEND–Closed between at the junctions with Church Walk and Raphael Road **5th August 2013 to 7th August 2013** – 8.00pm until 5.00am Diversion will be via A226 Milton Road, Parrock Street, B261 Old Road East, A226 Rochester Road and A226 East Milton Road

A226 ROCHESTER ROAD, GRAVESEND–Closed between Dickens Road and Abbey Road **8th August 2013 to 9th August 2013** – 8.00pm until 05.00am Diversion will be via A226 Milton Road, Parrock Street and B261 Old Road East

A226 MILTON ROAD, GRAVESEND–Closed between Ordnance Road and Cumberland Avenue **12th August 2013 2013 to 14th August 2013** – 8.00pm until 5.00am Diversion will be via A226 Milton Road, Parrock Street, B261 Old Road East, A226 Rochester Road and A226 East Milton Road

CRUTCHES LANE, HIGHAM–Closed between A226 Gravesend Road and Gads Hill School **16th August 2013** – 09.00am until 4.00pm Diversion will be via A226 Gravesend Road, B2108 Rede Court Road and A2 Watling Street

B2175 HIGH STREET, NORTHFLEET–Closed between Factory Road and Hive Lane **19th August 2013 to 20th August 2013** – 7.00pm until 2.00am Diversion will be via B2175 Stonebridge Road, A226 Thames Way and B2175 London Road

A2260 SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET–Closed between Hall Road Roundabout to Waterdales **31st October 2013 to 5th November 2013** – 7.00pm until 02.00am Diversion will be via B262 Springhead Road, A226 Thames Way, A2260, B259 and B262 Hall Road

MAIDSTONE

A249 Detling Hill, Detling – Northbound Carriageway – Closed between the M20 Junction 7 interchange and the Detling Showground Access. Diversion via the M20, the A229 and the M2. **11 October 2013**–20:00 to 05:00

B2163 Heath Road, Boughton Monchelsea–Closed between its junctions with Loddington Lane and Gandy's Lane. Diversion via the A229 and the A274 Sutton Road. **02 September 2013** – 07:00 to 19:00

M20 J7 Interchange, Boxley–M20 junction 7 gyratory carriageway. Closed between the exit for the A249 SB carriageway and the entrance for the M20 J7 eastbound offslip. Diversion via Penenden Heath Road, Sandling Lane and the M20. **14 to 15 October 2013** – 21:00 to 05:00

North Street, Sutton Valence – Closed between its junctions with Chartway Street and Foresham Lane. Diversion via the B2163, the A229 and the A262. 03 to **04 September 2013**–09:30 to 15:30

A274 Sutton Road, Maidstone – Closed between its junctions with the A229 Loose Road and Nottingham Avenue. Diversion via the A229 and the B2163. **09 September 2013**–20:00 to 05:00

A26 Tonbridge Road/Queens Road, Barming–A26 Tonbridge Road closed between its junctions with Queens Road and Western Road. Diversion via Fountain Lane, Hermitage Lane and the A20 London Road. 16 to **18 October 2013**–21:00 to 05:00.

A26 Tonbridge Road/Fountain Lane, Barming–A26 Tonbridge Road closed between its junctions with Queens Road and Beverley Road. Diversion via the A228 and the A20 London Road. **7 to 12 November** – 21:00 to 05:00

A274 Sutton Road–Closed between its junctions with Bircholt Road and the B2163. Diversion via the A229 and the B2163. **04 to 06 September**–20:00 to 05:00

SEVENOAKS

ASH ROAD, HARTLEY–Closed between Quakers Close and Copse Side **13th August 2013 to 15th August 2013** – 9.00pm until 05.00am Diversion will be via Ash Road, B260 Main Road, Manor Road, Hartley Bottom Road and North Ash Road

B2173 MAIDSTONE ROAD, SWANLEY–Side road closure during works – Walnut Way to be closed **15th August 2013 to 19th August 2013** – 7.00pm until 2.00am (excluding weekend) Side road closure of Walnut Way required diversion will be via Walnut Way and Shurlock Avenue

B2026 HOSEY COMMON ROAD, WESTERHAM–Closed between French Street and North of Mapleton Road **19th August 2013 to 21st August 2013** – 09.00am until 16.00pm Diversion will be via B2026 Hosey Common Road, B269 Kent Hatch Road and A25 Westerham Road

B2188 SPRING HILL, PENSHURST–Closed between Sandfield Road and Brooklands Farm Close **21st August 2013** – 09.30am until 3.30pm Diversion will be via B2118 Spring Hill, Fordcombe Road, A264 Langton Road, A26 St Johns Road, B2176 Penshurst Road and B2188 Fordcombe Road

A25 BRADBOURNE VALE ROAD, SEVENOAKS–Closed between Bradbourne Road and St John's Hill **15th October 2013 to 29th October** – 9.00pm until 5.00am Diversion will be via A25 Bradbourne Vale Road, A224 Amherst Hill, A224 London Road, A224 Tubs Hill, Pembroke Road, A225 St Johns Hill

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

B2260 High Street, Tonbridge–Closed between Lyons Crescent and New Wharf Road. Diversion via the A227, the A26 and Vale Road. **29 to 30 October 2013** – 21:00 to 06:00

B2260 High Street, Tonbridge–Closed between Medway Wharf Road and Waterloo Road. Diversion via the A227, the A26 and the A2014. **24 to 28 October 2013** – 20:00 to 06:00

A227 Shipbourne Road, Hadlow–Closed between Puttenden Road and Back Lane. Diversion via the A25, the A20, the A228 and the A26. **6 November 2013** – 22:00 to 05:00

A26 Tonbridge, Hadlow–Closed between Ashes Lane and Carpenters Lane. Diversion via the A21 and the A228. **11 to 13 September 2013**–20:00 to 06:00

Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge–Closed between B245 London Road and the A227 Shipbourne Road. Diversion via the B245 London Road.

Yardley Park Road, Tonbridge–Closed at its junction with the A227 Shipbourne Road. Diversion via the A26, The Ridgeway and the A227.

A227 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge–10mph temporary speed restriction. From the junction with B245 London Road to the junction with Welland Road **27 October to 03 November 2013**–07:00 to 19:00

A228, Snodland–Closed between Holborough Road and Leybourne Way. Diversion via the M20, the A229 and the M2. **21 to 30 October 2013**–22:00 to 05:00

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

B2084 Chequers Road–Closed between B2079 North Road and A262 Cranbrook Road. Diversion via B2079 North Road, A262 High Street/Church Road/Cranbrook Road. **22 August 2013**–09:30 to 19:00

B2162 Lamberhurst Road/Tong Lane, Horsmonden–Closed between A262 Goudhurst Road and Ruck Lane. Diversion via the A262 the B2079, Underlyn Road and Green Lane **23 August 2013**–09:30 to 19:00

A264 Langton Road, Speldhurst–Closed between Farnham Lane and Dornden Drive Diversion via the A264, A22, A26 **11 to 12 September 2013** – 19:00 to 05:00

A26 London Road, Southborough–Closed between A21 and the B2176. Diversion via the A2014, the A21 and the A264 **09 to 10 September 2013**–20:00 to 06:00

A268 Queen Street, Sandhurst–Closed between Back Road and Stone Pit Lane. Diversion via Sponden Lane, Mill Street, New Pond Road, the B2086 and the A28. **05 to 06 August** – 19:00 to 06:00

B2017 Catts Corner–Closed between Sherenden Road and Hartlake Road. Diversion via the A26, the A21 and the A228. **14 to 16 October 2013** – 09:30 to 15:30

A268 High Street, Hawkhurst–Closed between Delmonden Lane and the A229. Diversion via the A21 and the A229. **27 August to 10 September 2013** – 09:30 to 15:30

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 18th August 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/01304/FUL: 36 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1EA Replacement of a single glazed window at the front of the property with a double glazed unit. **Applicant: Mr J McGregor** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01454/FUL: 14 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Demolition of existing single-brick rear addition and erection of replacement extension. **Applicant: Mr A Cornfoot** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01462/LB: 14 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Demolition of existing single-brick rear addition and erection of replacement extension. **Applicant: Mr A Cornfoot** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/01463/FUL: Parkstone, 7 Cecil Park, Herne Bay, CT6 6DL Replacement of shed with wooden garage. **Applicant: Mr M Wheadon** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01485/FUL: Hillside Cottage, Wood Hill, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NL Demolition of existing house and its replacement with two detached dwellings with associated parking. **Applicant: Mr Green** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01490/CAC: Hillside Cottage, Wood Hill, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NL Conservation area consent for demolition of existing house and its replacement with two detached dwellings with associated parking. **Applicant: Mr Green** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//13/01511/FUL: 139 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NX Proposed single storey rear extension and conversion of integral garage to habitable room. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Neilson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01517/FUL: Stour Farm Cottage, Riverside, Chartham, CT4 7NX Erection of single-storey side extension (continuation of existing side extension). **Applicant: Mr Brocklebank** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01521/FUL: Downland Cycles Ltd, Malthouse Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JA Demolition of existing workshop and creation of 14 apartments. **Applicant: Clague** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 9 September 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 16 August 2013

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MU30 IN TONBRIDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MU30 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MU30, between The Gardens of Remembrance and River Lawn from the 2nd September 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is an alternative route using pedestrian bridges to the sports ground.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX **Dated: 18th August 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 02 SEPTEMBER 2013.

SW/13/0792:
Retrospective application for siting of 2 No. mobile homes with associated utility block under Gypsy status, complete with associated parking and touring caravan parking and services - Rambling Rose, Greyhound Road, MINSTER; **REASON 6**

SW/13/0861:
Erection of an office building in association with the existing commercial buildings at this site (use class B1) and for night security (Retrospective) - Culnells Farm, School Lane, IWADE; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0869:
Advertisement Consent for three fascia signs - 109 St Marys Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0894:
Installation of a 12 panel solar photovoltaic system on roof of building - Church House, Church Street, RODMERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0901:
Proposed new detached house to replace former barn with amendments from approval SW/13/0339 - 58 High Street, NEWINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0909:
Erection of 5 detached dwellings with garages, changes to land levels and associated infrastructure. (Amendments to approved application SW/07/0284) - Land Rear of 97-101, Wards Hill Road, MINSTER; **REASON 7**

SW/13/0931:
Single storey extension to existing factory space together with erection of 2 small structures for paint and solvent storage - Floplast LTD, Unit E, Castle Road, Eurolink, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/0935:
Listed Building Consent to demolish a brick built shed in garden - Bridge House, Front Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0938:
Advertisement Consent to replace existing signage with new Boots Opticians signage including one fascia and one projecting sign - 99 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0942:
Replacement of existing windows and external doors with new UPVC windows and doors in existing openings - Sheldon Lodge Spa, Lees Court Road, SHELDWICH; **REASOSN 1 & 2**

SW/13/0948 &
SW/13/0949:
Rear single storey extension and minor internal alterations to existing kitchen - Coleshall Farmhouse, Sheppey Way, IWADE; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/13/0950:
Proposed change of use from annexe to holiday let - Forge Farm, Almshouse Road, THROWLEY FORSTAL; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0964:
Proposed four loose boxes, barn, tack room, ménage, muck heap and one horse trailer - Field to the rear of 32-62 Hartlip Hill, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00508 Erection of a single storey rear extension to provide 4 bedrooms
Alandale Residential Home, 9 The Drove, Whitfield, Dover, CT16 3JB **ARW**

DOV/13/00362 Erection of single storey rear extension with roof terrace, repair and renewal of lantern, installation of windows and associated internal and external alterations
143-144, Snargate Street, Dover, CT17 9BZ **LBC**

DOV/13/00600 Installation of two ventilation units and associated internal and external works
30,32, Castle Street, Dover, CT16 1PW **LCN**

DOV/13/00610 Change of use to Micro Pub (Use Class A4)
Part of Ground Floor, 7 Park Place, Dover, CT16 1DF **CON**

DOV/13/00634 Renewal of planning application DOV/10/00685 for change of use of ground floor and first floor to single residential dwelling
35 Harnet Street, Sandwich, CT13 9ES **LCN**

DOV/13/00365 Renewal of Listed Building Consent DOV/10/00694 for the conversion of ground and first floor to residential dwelling and alterations to front elevation
35 Harnet Street, Sandwich, CT13 9ES **LCN**

DOV/13/00406 Erection of a detached building incorporating an 81 one and two bedroom extra care facility, communal and ancillary spaces, community cafe, balconies and terraces, associated outbuildings, construction of 32 parking spaces with mini bus/ambulance bay and associated landscaping (existing building to be demolished)
Sampson Court, Mongeham Road, Deal, CT14 9PX **MAJ**

DOV/13/00617 Erection of a single storey rear extension (existing extension to be demolished)
Dolphin Cottage, 24 North Road, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AG **CON**

DOV/13/00647 Change of use to delicatessen and sandwich bar (Use Class A3)
4 Victoria Road, Deal, CT14 7AP **CON**

DOV/13/00638 Erection of front and rear dormer roof extensions incorporating a balcony
Westview, Stourmouth Road, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1HP **ARW**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
MAJ - Major Development **LCN -** Listed Building in a Conservation Area
SLC - To affect the setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way **CON -** Within Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0945/S - 2, BANK COTTAGES, MAIDSTONE ROAD, NETTLESTEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5HE - Construction of an oak framed double garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1218/S - HERTSFIELD SOUTH BRIDGE, 31B, CHART HILL ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT - Application for Listed Building Consent for beam demolition and parapet reconstruction. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1286/N - KNOWLE HILL FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Erection of a freestanding greenhouse. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1328/N - 19, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PL - Installation of extraction louvers and 1m high extraction flue to rear elevation and roof slope. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1361/S - TANNER HOUSE, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Application for a loft conversion to add new habitable rooms including new dormer windows to front and conservation rooflights to rear, new private drive and hard/soft landscaping to front and rear. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1362/S - TANNER HOUSE, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Application for listed building consent for a loft conversion to add new habitable rooms including new dormer windows to front and conservation rooflights to rear, minor internal alterations to re-instate original features and layout, new private drive and hard/soft landscaping to front and rear. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1369/N - 56, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Application for listed building consent for change of use of ground floor from Class A1 (retail) use to Class A5 (takeaway) use with internal changes and the installation of a brick chimney stack to rear elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1373/N - ROOFING CENTRE GROUP LTD, MENDIP HOUSE, LEEDS ROAD, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3JN - Outline application for the demolition of existing units on site and the erection of 6 detached houses with garaging, parking and access. With access to be considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1375/S - NEW LINE LEARNING ACADEMY, BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QL - Application for the approval of reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale and discharge of conditions 4 (boundary treatments), 5 (refuse storage), 7 (landscaping requirements), 9 (parking provision) and 11 (scheme parameters) pursuant to outline planning permission MA/12/1989 for the erection of a new primary school. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1382/N - 72, KING STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1BL - Listed Building Consent for new signage, namely two non-illuminated fascia signs of individual letters and one non-illuminated hanging sign. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **1st September 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 18th August 2013.

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0750/SH - Walnut Trees The Street Postling Hythe Kent - Installation of one new window to the first floor front elevation and one new window to the first floor rear elevation, together with the re-surfacing of the drive and other external alterations.

Y13/0519/SH - Flat 1 25 Clifton Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2EN - Listed building consent for the removal of internal staircase from ground to lower ground floor.

Y13/0692/SH - Whitecliffs 9 - 15 The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2DT - Works to 26 trees situated within a conservation area comprising: crown reduce back to previous points and 2.4 metre crown lift of 19 trees; crown reduce back to previous points and 2.5 metre crown lift of 2 trees; crown reduce back to previous points of 2 trees and 1.5 metre crown lift of 3 trees.

Y13/0769/SH - Holt Lodge School Hill Bodsham Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing lean-to extension.

Y13/0351/SH - 6A Trinity Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2ET - Alterations to retaining wall at lower ground floor level, installation of window to replace door, provision of a bin store, together with other alterations.

Alteration- form new entrance, replace erxtg door with window.

Y13/0742/SH - 6 The Crescent Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3EE - Installation of a rear dormer window and roof enlargement and other roof alterations, erection of a two storey rear extension, decking, steps and retaining wall to the rear garden.

Y13/0755/SH - 9A Trinity Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2RQ - Erection of a single storey rear extension, following removal of existing.

Y13/0701/SH - Lawrence House 15 St Marks Close Folkestone Kent CT20 3LY - Reserved matters application for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, as well as discharge of conditions 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 24 pursuant to outline planning permission Y11/1156/SH for the erection of 25 dwellings (including 8 affordable units), following demolition of the existing buildings.

Y13/0748/SH - 58 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Replacement of box frame bay window at the front of the house.

Y13/0772/SH - 7 - 8 Salisbury Road Folkestone Kent CT19 4LJ - Erection of 14 two-storey houses and a three-storey block of 6 flats with associated access, parking and landscaping.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02195/FUL **Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Installation of floodlighting to three existing tennis courts (LB)

13/02103/FUL **30A Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Conversion of Suite C to 1-bedroom flat and decking on flat roof (CA) (LB)

13/02209/LBC **27 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of modern timber fire surrounds and replacement with marble fireplaces to the following rooms:- first floor drawing room (front), first floor dining room (rear), Repositioning of ground floor kitchen (rear room) fire surround to the second floor bathroom (rear) (LB)

13/02186/LBC **Delmonden Grange Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Two-storey rear extension (TW/10/02140/LBC refers) (LB)

13/02214/HOUSE **The Coach House Broadford, Horsmonden**
- Single storey extension with link to rear of building, removal of 2 no. porches and internal alterations (LB)

13/02216/LBC **The Coach House Broadford, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey extension with link to rear of building, removal of 2 no. porches and internal alterations (LB)

13/02240/HOUSE **Bassetts Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Demolition of an extension as permitted under TW/05/03311/FUL and TW/05/03314/LBC and erection of a replacement single-storey garden room extension (LB)

13/02242/LBC **Bassetts Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of an extension as permitted under TW/05/03311/FUL and TW/05/03314/LBC and erection of a replacement single-storey garden room extension (LB)

13/02142/HOUSE **2 Hickmots Cottages High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Single storey rear extension (LB) (CA)

13/02143/LBC **2 Hickmots Cottages High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension (LB)

13/02194/FUL **Little Scotney Farm Land And Buildings Hastings Road, Lamberhurst**
- Replacement covered yard (LB)

13/02162/LBC **4 Nevill Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Advertising board to side elevation. Hanging sign to corner of building. Fascia sign and window signage (LB)

13/02280/FUL **1 Frog Lane Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Retrospective: Move external door 1150mm to the right of it's existing location (CA) (LB)

13/02282/LBC Office **1 Frog Lane, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Move external door 1150mm to the right of it's existing location (works commenced) (LB)

13/02284/CAC **Garages Cambridge Gardens, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of garages (in connection with planning permission TW/09/01540/FUL) (CA)

13/02198/LBC **23 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to master bedroom ensuite to form two separate ensuites (LB)

13/02220/FUL **Flat 5 & Flat 8 Calverley Court, Park**
- Two balconies for flats 5 and 8. Remove full height windows and replace with upvc glazed doors (CA)

13/02163/LBC **Flat 5 Bentham Hill House, Southborough Town Council**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of a plasterboard partition/stud wall (works commenced) (LB)

13/02094/LBC **Danemore Park Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Enlargement of kitchen; New doorways between: Master bedroom and dressing room, bedroom 2 and bathroom, and bedroom 4 and toilet 1; Re-arrangement of layout of bedroom 8 and 9 to open up south landing; Removal of bathroom 3 in south west corner landing; Enlargement of roof lantern above south landing on first floor; Double glazing glass inserts into original wooden sash frames; Replacement and extension of part of electrical network; Replacement and extension of plumbing layout; Repair of external wall cracking; Repaint of external walls; Repair of slate tile roof; Underpinning at base of study and drawing room external bays (LB)

13/01988/HOUSE **58 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Reposition pillar to widen driveway entrance (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Dated: 17 August 2013

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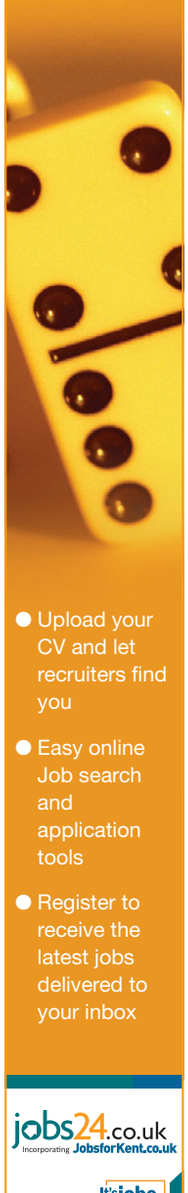

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MOTORSPORT

Shakey dedicates milestone to team-manager Paul Bird as he continues fantastic form in BSB

Byrne bags his half-century as attention turns to Showdown

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne is in no mood to sit back and relax after reaching the milestone of 50 race wins.

The three-time champion has been in imperious form this season, comfortably leading the standings from day one.

Last weekend at Oulton Park was the first time he felt he had been properly beaten all season, having previously lost out through his own mistakes.

However, those occasions have been few, with the Sittingbourne ace notching up nine race wins so far, equalling his tally from the title-winning season last year with 11 races in five rounds still to go.

He could have even surpassed the half-century mark as he finished second in two races by just a fraction of a second.

Those two podiums, and a first last weekend, also ensured he was the first rider this season to secure his place at the end-of-season Showdown, where the top six riders in the standings battle it out over the final three rounds for the title.

"The 50 race wins was one I was hopeful of achieving this year. It was a little target of mine. It's a shame I didn't do it at Brands Hatch – I could have done but I fell off in the last race," he said.

"There are 11 races – now that I have achieved that 50 mark we need to keep our heads down and improve. The first thing I told my crew this year was that we had to get double figures for race wins. No one is going to beat Leon Camier's record of 19 race wins. To be fair, there was nobody there for him to beat that year – he just won everything.

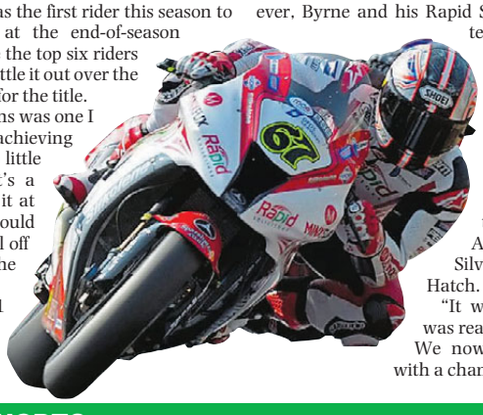
"I look at those two defeats quite positively. I have just completed the seventh round and in my own head that's the first time I've been beaten all year.

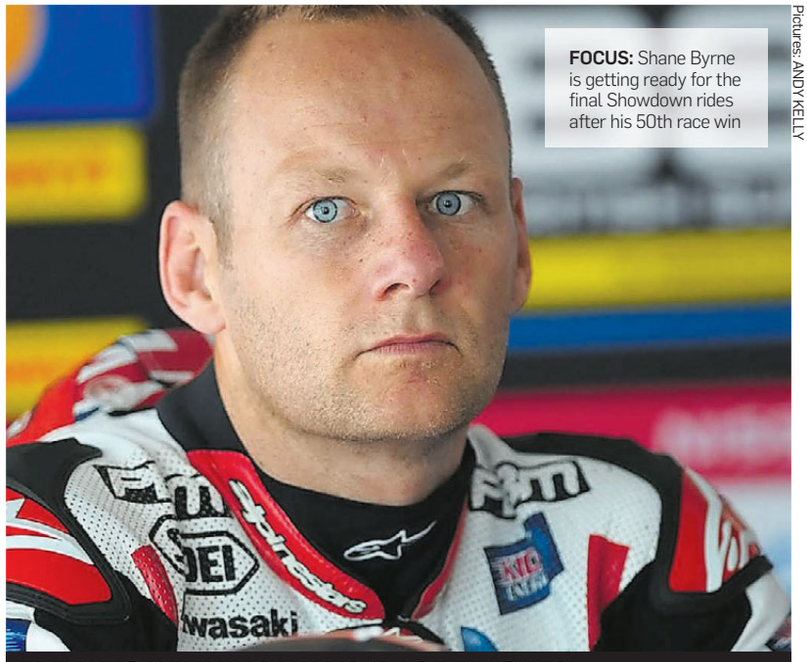
"Don't get me wrong, I'm not happy to get beaten. It's not what I go out racing for. I obviously want to win as many as possible, but I understand I cannot win every single race."

He also paid tribute to team-manager Paul Bird: "It is really important for me to dedicate that 50th win to Paul Bird as he has been a big part of most of those wins."

The 36-year-old is 29 points ahead of Australian Josh Brookes and 180 points ahead of James Westmoreland, who is a place outside the top six qualifers for the Showdown, in seventh. However, Byrne and his Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki team will not be complacent despite his early qualification for the Showdown. Instead it gives them more time to get things right for the all-important final three rounds at Assen in Holland, Silverstone and Brands Hatch.

"It was something that was really important to do. We now know we are in with a chance," he said.

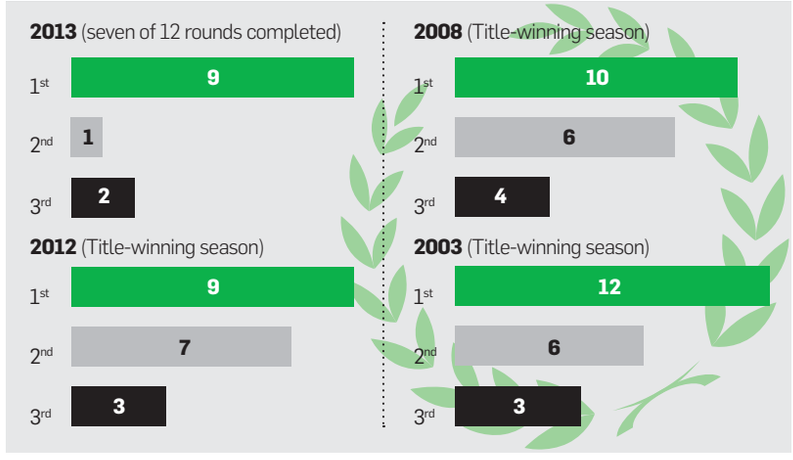




FOCUS: Shane Byrne is getting ready for the final Showdown rides after his 50th race win

Pictures: ANDY KELLY

BYRNE'S WINNING WAYS (RACE FINISHES)



"There are going to be five other guys in with a chance of winning the title. I just need to keep chipping away at it. We don't need to be desperate to get podium points.

"The plan is you always start with a package – you know you need to build up the points, the podium credits and get to the Showdown. But you have got to have a reliable package.

"It's all the little bits and pieces that make the difference. You refine everything and stretch everything to just before the limit and make sure you don't go over that limit."

■ **Byrne will next be in action when the championship resumes at Lincolnshire circuit Cadwell Park on the bank-holiday weekend from August 24-26.**

SPORTS SHORTS

ICE HOCKEY

Hot-shot forward signs for Invicta Dynamos

INVICTA Dynamos have signed lethal finisher Jakub Klima.

The Czech forward moves to the Gillingham side from Streatham Redskins. He has proved his ability in the league over the last two seasons after originally joining Chelmsford Chieftains in 2011/12.

The 23-year-old found the net 39 times and added 51 assists at the Chieftains before moving to Streatham last season where he scored 39 times and added 36 assists.

ROWING

World Championship await for rowing aces

KENT rowers Tom Ransley and Dan Ritchie will be going for gold at the World Championship in Korea this month.

Ransley, from Ashford, and Ritchie, from Herne Bay, have been selected in the men's eight for the championship, which takes place from August 25 until September 1.

The crew won gold at their home world cup regatta in Eton Dorney before finishing outside the medals in Lucerne last month, when they had to settle for fourth position.

CRICKET

Fashion, jazz and food at Canterbury week

KENT mark their annual Canterbury Cricket Week with a clash against Gloucestershire in the County Championship on Wednesday.

Fans heading to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence for the first day will be greeted by a jazz band, while there will be a laying of a wreath at the lime tree to remember the fallen.

Day two is Ladies' Day featuring the Fenwicks' Fashion on the Outfield competition, and day three is Made in Kent day, with county producers showcasing their wares.

MOTORSPORT

Weight handicap will not stop title chase

OMAN Air Motorbase kept their title hopes alive with a seventh-place finish at Brands Hatch in the British GT Championship.

Ahmad Al Harthy and Michael Caine carried a massive 130kg weight penalty throughout the two-hour race, imposed by organisers because of their grading, but it did not stop them climbing to seventh after starting in 20th.

Al Harthy said: "To finish P7 is a great result from where we started. We were very consistent and it was so important to have a strong race."

CRICKET

Kent star Stevens charged in BPL match-fixing probe

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

KENT all-rounder Darren Stevens could face a career-ending ban if he is found guilty of failing to report a corrupt approach while playing in the Bangladesh Premier League.

The 37-year-old was this week charged by the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) for failing to report a match-fixing-related approach during the tournament in February.

The former Leicestershire man, who helped Dhaka Gladiators win the BPL for the second year running, has denied the claims.

A total of nine individuals related to the Gladiators have been charged. Seven of them face match-fixing-related charges, while Stevens and another are charged with failing to report an approach to the authorities.

Stevens, who joined Kent in 2004 and has established himself as a firm fans' favourite, has 14 days from Wednesday, when the news broke, to respond to the allegations. If he pleads not guilty, he will face a full hearing before the Anti-Corruption Tribunal.

If, after a hearing, he is found guilty he faces a suspension of between one and five years, which, given his age, could end his career.

Stevens cost the Gladiators $30,000 in the player auction this year and was one of five Englishmen in the the team, which included Owais Shah, Josh Cobb, Luke Wright, James Taylor, Sri Lankan duo Tillakaratne Dilshan and Lasith Malinga and Pakistani Shahid Afridi.

Stevens said in a statement: "I confirm that I have been charged by the ICC with a failure to report a corrupt approach made to me during BPL2 in February this year.

"I have not been involved in any corrupt activity and have not been charged with any and I am cooperating with the ICC and ACSU in their investigation and prosecution of the corruption charges in matters relating to the BPL.

"I am totally against any corruption in cricket and would never do anything other than perform to the best of my ability in any game. The ICC have not suspended me from playing and I remain willing and able to play for Kent in all fixtures if selected.

"As the charge against me is now the subject of disciplinary proceedings I can make no further comment with regard to them at this stage."

Earlier this month a number of players who were involved in the BPL were formally quizzed in relation to the match-fixing inquiry.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board instigated the investigation after asking the ICC to review the second edition of the BPL, which finished in March.

ICC chief executive David Richardson said the responsibility to fight corruption was not just that of the ICC.

He said: "Whilst we have charged some individuals with failing to report corrupt approaches that were made to them, it is important to stress that this investigation has also been built upon, among other things, evidence gathered from other individuals who not only rejected corrupt approaches made to them but then did what they were supposed to do and reported them to the ACSU.

"This fact demonstrates that the messages delivered by the numerous anti-corruption education programmes to all participants in the game are effective."

Former Bangladesh captain Mohammed Ashraful publicly confessed to his involvement in match-fixing in June, details of which have not yet been revealed. The 29-year-old, who has played in 61 Tests for the Tigers, was a team-mate of Stevens during the BPL, although he has not been named as one of those charged in relation to the tournament.

Kent County Cricket Club refused to comment when contacted by this paper.

Picture: ADY KERRY

DENIAL: Darren Stevens is 'totally against any corruption' and refutes the ICC charge against him

Picture: ADY KERRY

BELGIUM: Dan Shingles confident ahead of trip

HOCKEY

Shingles keen to build on recent performances

FROM PE teacher to full-time England international – it has been quite a year for Dan Shingles.

This weekend the midfielder continues his international development at the European Hockey Championships in Belgium, where England are up against Holland, Poland and Ireland in their group.

The 27-year-old from Bromley, who quit his job at Langley Park Boys School in Beckenham to concentrate on his international career, is in confident mood ahead of the championships, which conclude next weekend.

That confidence comes from a series of promising matches against Holland in Wakefield earlier this month.

"We are feeling confident after some of the performances last week. We had three very solid and consistent games," said Shingles, who has recently signed for Reading.

"We haven't set any specific goals or targets at this point. We enter every tournament with the aim of winning, but our goals are based on performances.

"There is always a danger if you start saying we are going to win the tournament, you end up forgetting about the process of getting there.

"In our group we are probably looking at the Dutch as favourites. We showed in Wakefield we are getting closer and closer to them.

"The other side of the draw is a bit tougher. The Germans are extremely difficult and Belgium are vastly improved as well."

Shingles, who made his debut for England at the Champions Trophy last year, added: "It was a great feeling to get selected. There is no doubt it is a massive step up. Until you have got the experience, it's a baptism of fire."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Premier League to Tonbridge Angels

Picture: ADY KERRY

CITY BOY: Tommy Forecast

FORMER Crystal Palace defender Gary Borrowdale has signed for **Tonbridge Angels**.

The 28-year-old has been training with Tommy Warrilow's Conference South side this summer after time out of the professional game in England.

He started his career at Selhurst Park in 2002 and made 98 appearances for the Eagles in the Championship and Premier League before opting to sign for Coventry City.

He also had spells at Colchester United, QPR, Brighton, Charlton, Carlisle and Barnet.

Dover Athletic midfielder Dave Pilcher has joined Ryman One South side **Ramsgate** on dual-registration terms, while midfielder Chris Kinnear and defender Richard Orlu have signed on.

Gillingham youngster Tom Derry has gone on loan to Chelmsford City for three months.

The 18-year-old striker joins former Gills loanee, goalkeeper Tommy Forecast, who also signed at the Conference South side this month.

FOOTBALL

Allen: we will work with what we've got

BUDGET constraints will not see Gills boss Martin Allen having a strop any time soon.

With time ticking towards the end of the transfer window, the Gills are still a few numbers short, but any additions will have to fall in line with what the club can afford.

Allen has revealed that they missed out, but were in no way close, to signing three players who played against them for Bristol City in the recent Capital One Cup defeat.

Defender Aden Flint and midfielder Marlon Pack, both pictured above, were targets for the Gills, while Sam Baldock is thought to have been wanted on loan while at West Ham last season.

"Those wages are just completely out of our remit. We're not in that position," he said. "It's not a criticism, it's not crying, it just doesn't fit.

"We will work with what we have got and have a right go ourselves. That's how it is. It's different dollars, that's OK."

He added: "I'm not going to speculate [on transfers]. I've always said we will just wait and see what happens. It has to fit into the budget.

"The chairman controls that. I can put the names forward. If we can't afford it, we can't afford it. I don't slam the door and complain, I deal with it."

Picture: ADY KERRY

TRANSFERS: No speculation

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